

THE

Nonconformist.

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THE LORDS' COMMITTEE ON INTEMPERANCE.

THE report of the select committee appointed by the House of Lords to inquire into the prevalence of intemperance, and the bearing of legislation thereon, is, to a certain extent, a very sensible and judicious document. It throws, indeed, no novel light upon this dark subject, but it does cast a ray of hope into the future. When a committee of so eminently Conservative a body decides that the possibility of advantage from Mr. Chamberlain's proposed modification of the Gothenburg system so far preponderates over all objections made against it that legislative facilities ought to be given for its experimental adoption, we are perhaps not too sanguine in thinking that some Government less dependent on grog than the present one may hereafter take the hint. But when we have said this we have almost exhausted the practical value of the report. There are, indeed, other suggestions, of which the most noteworthy are [the following. It is recommended "that no removal of a licence from one house to another should be sanctioned without giving to the inhabitants of the locality to which the removal is proposed the opportunity of stating their objections." This is a distinct recognition of the principle of local option, which, in other parts of the report, dealing with the Permissive Bill, is decidedly repudiated. It is also suggested "that no structural alterations of houses licensed for drinking on the premises, having for their object increased facilities for drinking, should be made without the previous approval of the licensing authority." This is a good proposal. For at present a modest public-house may be turned into a flaming gin-palace without the slightest regard for the interests of the neighbourhood. So long as additional premises are not taken in, the old licence covers every ingenious increase of accommodation and all seductive arts of the tempter. Surely there ought to be some limit to this. The only other proposal worth noting is that of a "considerable increase" in the licence duties. It is scarcely probable that any practicable increase would seriously raise the cost of getting drunk. But if we are to drink ourselves out of the financial difficulties just now being piled around us, any invention to make the task easier will be welcomed.

Setting aside the somewhat startling approval of Mr. Chamberlain's proposal, the actual suggestions might be regarded as a poor result for the prolonged labours of so exalted a committee, were it not that the publicans are alarmed. We make no scruple of saying that

whatever alarms them for the interests of their trade ought to be a comfort to a vast majority of their fellow-countrymen. But, always with the above reservation, it is difficult to see any reason for their terror. The report is rather remarkable for its able and candid exposition of the difficulties of the subject than for any drastic proposals in regard to their solution. The consumption of intoxicating liquors in the whole kingdom is shown to have increased from 27. 18s. 6½d. per head in 1860 to 47. 9s. 0½d. per head in 1876. But, on the other hand, it is not considered that this growth of expenditure is in itself a proof of increased drunkenness, because the spending power of all classes was greatly augmented during those comparatively happy years, the consumption of tea and sugar, for instance, increasing in a far larger ratio. We are not sure about this reasoning. If all children and teetotallers be deducted, it will be found that the remainder of the population must be spending on beer, wine, and spirits an amount of money which is more alarming than ever. It is comforting to hear of evidence showing that "drunkenness is less common than formerly among the more respectable portion of the working classes." And we must agree with the inference that "the increase has taken place chiefly either in the lowest grades of society, or amongst those whose advance in education has not kept pace with the increase of their wages." But how terrible must be the excess amongst this class! And what a lesson is contained in the last moral observation, to be borne in mind by the lords when next they are called upon to deal with public elementary education! There appears to be no constant ratio between the number of public-houses on a given area and the amount of manifest drunkenness. The returns on this subject are very conflicting. But then it should be remembered that these returns are defective from two causes:—They deal only with arrests for drunkenness, which depend of course very largely upon the various degrees of activity shown by the police; and these returns take no note of merely maudlin inebriates who are able to wind their way home without disturbance. A whole district might be besotted and demoralised by a plethora of public-houses, even though, judged by police returns, it might appear eminently respectable.

But the evil is confessedly so frightful that we may well be thankful for small mercies, and the recommendation of permission to try Mr. Chamberlain's proposal is worth all the rest of the report put together. It is distinctly proved, after considerable experience, that the Gothenburg system, on which that proposal is founded, has permanently reduced drunkenness. And the modification proposed by Mr. Chamberlain—the acquisition of public-houses by municipal corporations instead of companies—does not interfere with the practical operation of the system. One almost priceless benefit to be expected from it is described in the report as "the elimination of the influence of the publicans from civic elections." The influence they exert at present is as deadly as it is disgraceful. Through the numbers of demoralised wretches they have in their debt, through the favours they can bestow, through the false and base standards of honour and good fellowship they maintain, they exert an influence which paralyses logic, oratory, and statesmanship combined. If any other class domineered over the best interests of this country for the most miserably selfish purposes, as the publicans do, the incubus would be shaken off with indigna-

tion. And it is high time their reign came to an end.

THE CASE OF WILLIAM HABRON.

THE release of William Habron, wrongly convicted of the Whalley Range murder, has excited not only universal sympathy for the man, but also a general sentiment of uneasiness at some uncertainties in the operations of law, of which his case is typical. The facts of this case are brief and startling. In the autumn of 1876 a policeman named Cook was shot during the night while going his rounds. He did not die immediately, but he was never clearly conscious afterwards, and as to his broken utterances there is some uncertainty, which, however, were not investigated at the trial. As soon as the crime was discovered, suspicion fell upon the three brothers Habron, on the ground of threats they were said to have uttered against him, because he had been the means of summoning them before a magistrate. They worked and resided in the neighbourhood, and almost within the hour they were arrested in their beds. The usual examination of the fatal spot was made by the police, and a fresh footmark was found accurately corresponding with a boot worn by William Habron, the youngest of the brothers. Some percussion caps were found in his pocket, but no evidence was forthcoming as to their use. He was shown to have called at a gunsmith's to inquire the price of a pistol, which, however, he did not buy. These were the main facts relied upon for the prosecution; but they were supported by various subsidiary allegations as to the characters of the young men and their relations with the unfortunate policeman. The result was that the two elder brothers were released, while the youngest, after a trial in which the judge did not fail to indicate the weak points in the evidence, was brought in guilty by the jury, and condemned to death. This was on Nov. 27, 1876. At his trial there was present among the spectators one man who knew the falsehood of the charge, because he himself had fired the fatal shot. It is a frightful illustration of the extent to which human nature may be hardened, not only against all appeals of justice and generosity, but against the terrors of the law, that this man, Peace, left the heart-rending scene he had witnessed with a complacent feeling of safety, and forthwith committed the Bannercross murder, for which at last he was brought to the gallows. The commutation of Habron's sentence was owing, we believe, rather to dissatisfaction with the verdict than to the youth of the prisoner. But if that was the case, it is difficult to understand the needless prolongation of the horrible suspense in which he was kept. The subsequent confession of Peace, its corroboration by indubitable evidence, and the release of the martyr to legal blundering, after two years and three months of penal servitude, are matters of recent memory.

It is difficult to review this story with equanimity. We have often been told of late that the indiscriminate condemnation of circumstantial evidence only betrays vulgar ignorance; that such evidence is indispensable; that in cases of murder it is often the only kind accessible; and that this sort of testimony alone is incapable of perjury. Such observations, however, do not touch the dissatisfaction, not to say the indignation, with which public opinion now looks back to Habron's trial. There is an enormous difference between circumstantial evidence which justifies suspicion and circumstantial evidence conclusive of guilt. The latter:

exists only when the circumstances proved are such that they cannot be reconciled with the innocence of the accused, except by some monstrous and almost miraculous hypothesis. Certainly no such difficulty existed in the present case. The fortuitous agreement of two men's footmarks is by no means an impossible coincidence. Besides, Habron might very well have passed a place so familiar to him half a dozen times in a day. As to threats, for one that is followed by murder there are ten thousand that are forgotten in a few hours. We do not envy the present feelings of the jury whose judgment was based on evidence like this. But an equally uncomfortable element in this case is the manner in which the evidence was got up by the police. It requires an investigation which we do not observe to be promised. When once policemen have convinced themselves that they are on the right track they seem to be under an impression that it is their duty to attend only to circumstances corroborating their suspicions, to the total disregard of all that makes for the other side. This bias is in all probability quite unconscious, but it is not the less dangerous to people wrongly accused. If it is true that the murdered policeman gasped out with his dying breath a declaration that "it was all a mistake" this ought to have been stated at the trial. And it is surely the duty of the Home Secretary now to ascertain, if possible, whether this was the case or not. The proposed establishment of a public prosecutor may perhaps do something to remedy this danger. For a man of culture and learning would of course bear in mind that it is justice and not a condemnation at all hazards that is wanted. Still, a public prosecutor must rely to a considerable extent on the police. And until the latter are duly impressed with the danger of arranging facts to support a theory, innocent people will often be in jeopardy.

A good deal of comment has been made on the practical absurdity of extending a "gracious pardon" to a man who is proved to have suffered, instead of committing, a cruel wrong. It is not, however, very easy to see how the absurdity could be avoided. It would never do to have the formal judgment of public courts reversed by an informal inquiry. And if a court of criminal appeal were established, all cases of murder would go to it as a matter of course. The appellant would have everything to gain and nothing to lose, and where life is at stake it would be almost impossible to refuse him the right. Besides, the court of appeal would not be infallible, and public opinion would not long absolve the Home Secretary from the responsibility of interfering where there seemed the slightest reason for fearing a miscarriage of justice. Some ridiculous phraseology might, however, very well be dispensed with in this, as in many other instances of royal prerogative. And perhaps the next time an innocent man is to be released from an unjust sentence it may not be thought necessary to send him on a long railway journey in handcuffs before he is informed of his good fortune. Mr. Cross, who is always straightforward in regard to his own department, frankly acknowledged the stupidity of red-tapery in this instance. Perhaps some of the more serious evils revealed by the wrongs of William Habron might also be met by frankness and common-sense.

AN AGRICULTURAL TRIUMPH.

THE second reading of the Hypothec Abolition Bill, by a majority of 127, is a great victory for the tenant farmers of Scotland, and a victory due to resolute action in the only place where it tells upon Parliament—the polling-booth. Scotch farmers have long been very much in earnest about the abolition of hypothec, and at the last general election nearly, if not quite, every Scotch county member was pledged to vote for it. In 1875, when Mr. Vans-Agnew had a similar bill before Parliament, it was rejected by a majority of eighteen only, and on that occasion, forty-three out of the forty-five Scotch members who took part in the division, voted in favour of the bill. But English landlords,

who feared that if hypothec went their own law of distress would go after it, have, until now, been too strong for the Scotchmen and their Liberal allies in Parliament. Indeed, Mr. Vans-Agnew and other Scotch members who have brought forward bills on the question, appear to have been so much disheartened that they have not taken the trouble to keep a House on one or two recent occasions, so that it began to be doubted whether Scotch members were, after all, very anxious to fulfil their pledges to their constituents. Since last session, however, much has happened to stimulate their flagging energies, and at the same time to break down the dogged opposition of English landowners. Apart from the imminence of a general election, which naturally renders both parties in the House anxious to conciliate the farmers, the resolute action recently taken by Scotch tenants and their leaders has shown that it would not be safe to trifle with them any longer. The coming election in Midlothian is regarded on both sides as one of no ordinary importance, and the Scotch farmers had openly declared that they would make the abolition of hypothec a test question. There was every reason to believe that Mr. Gladstone would agree to their wishes, which, of course, alarmed the Conservatives, who would give the proverbial Jew's eye to defeat him. In addition to this decided conduct on the part of Scotch farmers, the directors of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture have recently issued an address to the constituencies, urging them to make a public question of agricultural reform, and showing how important that is not only to farmers and farm labourers, but also to consumers. This address, which has been very widely circulated in pamphlet form, is one of the most vigorous and striking exposures of agricultural abuses which has ever been published. It was sent out, moreover, just in the nick of time—immediately after great meetings of farmers in England and Scotland had been held to consider the depressed condition of agriculture. In one of the most influential reviews, and in the agricultural press generally, attention has also been called to the very serious crisis which the agricultural interest of this country is now passing through. The question was felt by the Government to be all the more pressing because in the *Fortnightly Review* the Liberal party had been earnestly urged to take up the question of agricultural reform, and there was some reason to believe that a large number of its members were disposed to respond to the appeal. Lastly, a motion was coming on for an inquiry into the operation of the Agricultural Holdings Act and the condition of agricultural tenancies in England, and it was understood that the Liberal party would support Mr. Samuelson, its author. Considering all these circumstances, it is no wonder that the Government thought it high time to make a bid for the support of the farmers, with whom they have so egregiously trifled since they have been in power. Thus it has happened that, with one of those surprises in which the crafty leader of the Conservative party delights, the Government announced that they would not oppose the second reading of Mr. Vans-Agnew's bill.

To show that this triumph for the Scotch tenant farmers is due to the desire to gain prestige with them and their English sympathisers and not to a conviction of the justice of their demand, it is only necessary to refer to the division-list, which tells us that only seventeen Conservative county members voted with the majority, in spite of the fact that their leaders obviously desired them to depart from the policy of opposition previously sanctioned. English landlords are as strongly opposed as ever to the relinquishing of their unfair preference over other creditors of their tenants. With their accustomed obedience to the behests of their leaders, they generally refrained from opposing what had been decided upon as a necessary piece of party tactics; but the majority of them preferred to be absent from the division rather than record their votes for a hated measure. But the victory which the farmers have scored is all the greater because it has been forced from unconvinced opponents.

It shows what great power they have when they are united and resolute, and when they make known plainly that their unity and resolution will result in something more effective than mere talk, with which farmers generally have been too apt to be contented. The result should stimulate English as well as Scotch tenants to further efforts. Their objects are such as it would be for the advantage of the nation at large to help to attain, and if they do their part like men they will not lack the assistance which they will deserve. If they will only take the advice of their most enlightened leaders, and keep clear of the Protectionist revival which, we regret to notice, has begun to show its effect amongst them, there will be nothing in their demands which the country should deny them.

In England, unfortunately, the farmers have hitherto been both less united and less earnest than their Scotch brethren. But now a Tenant Farmers' Political Association is in course of being organised in Warwickshire—the nursery of a previous great agricultural movement—and there are also signs of the formation of a national association of a similar character, to be in readiness for action at the next general election. We hail with pleasure these indications of political movement amongst a class which has been hitherto in a state of lamentable political stagnation. The true remedy for agricultural depression lies, not in a revival of protective tariffs on foreign food, which would quickly be absorbed in enhanced rents, but in the removal of all the hindrances to the full and free development of the resources of the soil. Let the farmers fully recognise and resolutely act upon this theory, and they will not much longer have to lament the lack of interest which the public have been accused—and justly too—of manifesting in agricultural reform. "Free agriculture" is undoubtedly deserving of being made a watchword by the party to whose efforts Free Trade was due, and to whom we look also for a Free Church; but the farmers may work for it without considering from which party they are most likely to obtain it, because, as in the case of the abolition of hypothec, they may find that the rival parties will bid one against the other to grant what they and the bulk of the people alike desire.

THE CAMBRIDGE PROFESSOR OF MORAL THEOLOGY.

We were not a little startled the other day to find the following sentence in the preface of a new work by the Rev. T. R. Birke, on "Supernatural Revelation":—"Attacks have been made, and are still in progress, on Christianity and all the foundations of our Christian Empire, by three allied systems of error—Ultramontanism, Agnosticism or Secularism, and the *Liberationism*, which would banish the name of Christ from the whole world of politics." To argue with the man who would write the words which we have italicised would be vain. But protest and exposure may serve some purpose. We have not heard that the Bible revisionists have discovered verse 16 of the Twentieth of Exodus to be an interpolation, and till that is done we shall hold that it is still the law of God that "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." And if ever false witness was borne, we have it in the sentence we have quoted. And the man who bears it is without excuse. For forty-two years, he tells us, he has had the privilege of unfolding and maintaining the great truths of the Word of God. And during that period we may presume that he has stood side by side, many times, with Liberationist Nonconformists on the Bible Society platform, and has found them not less earnest than himself in maintaining the great truths of the Word of God, and in urging their dissemination through the world as the seeds of the world's regeneration. We can, indeed, suppose him innocent of all knowledge of Nonconformist literature, even of advertisements respecting it which may find their way into journals that lie on his table.

We should only insult him to suppose that he is aware that the *Nonconformist*, which originated in "Liberationism," and has been identified with it all the days of its existence, published four years ago an elaborate review of the very portions of "Supernatural Religion" to which he has now addressed himself, and that that review was afterwards published as a book, under the title of a "Brief Defence of Supernatural Christianity." Dr. Kennedy's review was as uncompromising in its antagonism to the assumptions and pretensions of "Supernatural Religion" as is Mr. Birks's. But then Dr. Kennedy is a Liberationist, like ourselves. And of "Liberationism" Mr. Birks's idea has been formed by some such experience as that of the Temanite—"A thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof. In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men, fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up; it stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof."

And yet Cambridge is not so secluded from the outer world, or from the "universal" church, but that its Professor of Moral Theology might be supposed to know something of the works of others than "clergymen of the English Church." The Congregationalists had a "lecture," which was continued for many years, corresponding to the "Bampton" or "Hulsean," which was wholly devoted to the defence and illustration of the Word of God and of its "great truths." And the very first "lecturer" of the series was that redoubted champion of Liberationism the late Dr. Ralph Wardlaw. The "Congregational Union" has now a "lecture" of the same order. And the subject of the very first of the series was "The Superhuman Origin of the Bible Inferred from Itself," and the lecturer was the late Mr. Henry Rogers, who had already rendered eloquent and effective service in defence of the Word of God and its great truths. The last of the series is the work of Mr. Eustace Conder on "The Basis of Faith," a work which contains one of the most able expositions and defences of Christian Theism which these last days have produced.

We are to suppose that no rumour of all this has penetrated the cell in which Mr. Birks prosecutes his studies; and more, that Mr. Birks knows nothing of "the whole world of politics" of the last two years and of the present hour. The Nonconformists have been complaining and proclaiming, in tones loud enough to penetrate the most secluded cell in Cambridge, that "Christ" is excluded from the triumphant politics of the Toryism which the clergy have helped to put in power, and of which the clergy have been the most zealous defenders. Not all the clergy, indeed. A few noble men, like Canon Liddon, mostly of a school very different from that to which Mr. Birks belongs, have not hesitated to join the Nonconformists in declaring the Beaconsfield policy in the matter of Turkey, to be not only Christless but anti-Christian. The same evil spirit inspires and possesses its policy in Afghanistan. Anything more unrighteous than the English invasion of Afghanistan, has not been perpetrated before the face of high heaven for many a long day. And the attack on Zululand, so far as our present information enables us to judge—and we fear there is little hope of further light to change our judgment—seems to be of the same character. The true "Christ" in "politics" is not a mere figure-head at the top of our public decrees, like the effigies of the sovereign or the royal arms. It is the authority of Christ's law, and the spirit of Christ's Gospel, pervading our politics and producing the fruits of righteousness, and truth, and love. And this, all this, is what is most conspicuously wanting in the present politics of England. The Nonconformists mourn the want, and labour and pray to have "Christ" restored to his rightful place in our Government, and in our relations to all the nations of the earth. And in so doing, they might have expected some sympathy from a Professor of "Moral Theology."

But we may be told that Mr. Birks speaks of "Liberationism," not of Liberationists. And

if we are, we reply that the abstract must be judged by the concrete; the essence cannot be essentially different to that of which it is the essence. If further told that Mr. Birks only draws an inference from the principles of Liberationism, we ask what inference, possible even to his mind, can be drawn from the principles of Liberationism, which could justify him in describing it as the ally of Agnosticism in its attacks on Christianity? The "Liberation" which we work for, is the liberation of the Church of Christ from the "control and patronage of the State." Is the "control and patronage of the State" of the essence of Christianity? Had Christianity no existence till Constantine blessed (?) it with his patronage and control? Would the Church of England be less Christian if she ceased to be controlled and patronised by the State? Is she more Christian now than Churches which are not so controlled and patronised? But what of "the foundations of our Christian Empire" which we are charged with assailing? These, we reply, are not to be found in the tie of control and patronage which binds the Church to the State, but in Christ's law of righteousness and love. And when we find priests and professors substituting a formal connection of Church and State for this great, unchangeable, all-penetrating law, we seem to hear the echo of an old Hebrew voice, "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices?" "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

THE ZULU WAR AND PARLIAMENT.

THE debate in the House of Lords last night had the advantage of taking place after the fullest information as to the political and military situation in South Africa, as well as to the views and policy of the Government, had been communicated to the public. The peers met with a complete knowledge of the facts of the case; and, indeed, there is hardly a point upon which information has not been forthcoming, unless it be the perplexing question of our future relations with the Boers. The manner in which the Government of England is now carried on receives a remarkable illustration in the fact that it was not till Wednesday last—on which day a Cabinet Council was held—that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was enabled to address a despatch to Sir Bartle Frere informing him of the opinion which the Government had formed on the policy to which he had committed the nation in South Africa. That opinion is one of unqualified disapproval. Sir Bartle Frere is told that the Government "have been unable to find in the documents he has placed before them that evidence of urgent necessity for immediate action which alone could justify him in taking, without their full knowledge and sanction, a course almost certain to result in a war which every effort should have been used to avoid." Let the reader for a moment consider the gravity of this statement. It fastens on Sir B. Frere the responsibility of having undertaken, without sufficient cause, a war which has already involved the complete destruction of nine hundred English soldiers, the loss of stores of the value of a quarter of a million sterling, and an expenditure of money which must now be counted by millions. Surely if the Executive deliberately arrive at the conclusion that the High Commissioner has committed a blunder of this terrible magnitude it is their duty to recal him. It is true that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, in the last paragraph of his despatch of the 19th inst., after paying a tribute to the "great experience, ability, and energy" which the High Commissioner has brought to his undertaking, declines to withdraw the confidence of the Government from him; but the formality and utter hollowness of these compliments are shown by the terms of a further despatch, written on March 20, in which Sir B. Frere is informed that, on none of the questions that have arisen in connection with the war is he to take any decided step, or commit himself to any positive conclusion, until he has received instructions from Her Majesty's Government. In other

words, he must be content for the future to execute only the orders which may be addressed to him by his official superiors. Will he be willing thus to play the part of a dutiful subordinate? We confess that on this subject we entertain the most serious misgivings, and that our doubts are confirmed by the passionate and reckless language of his further despatch, dated February 12, which the Secretary of State has just laid before Parliament. If any additional reasons were required to justify the regret at the non-recall of Sir B. Frere which Lord Lansdowne's resolution expressed, it may be found in the sensational and excited paragraphs of this despatch, every important statement in which except one has been refuted over and over again, either by Sir Henry Bulwer, or by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach himself. The statement which we except is the one which imputes "the disastrous check" we have received to "disregard of the general's orders." Unfortunately, the only officers who could shed light upon this subject are unable to offer a word of explanation or defence; but all impartial persons will, we think, recognise the fact that the fundamental error which Lord Chelmsford committed was in undertaking military operations against a powerful military tribe with an insufficient force. If this be a correct opinion, it is impossible to withhold from Sir B. Frere a share of the responsibility which the commander-in-chief has incurred for precipitating hostilities against the Zulus before a sufficient army had been concentrated on the frontier for the purpose of an aggressive war.

The debate in the House of Lords last night turned more upon the inconsistency of the Government in retaining the services of a man of whose conduct they had unequivocally disapproved than upon the merits of the war itself. We have no doubt that this was the reason why Lord Carnarvon's unhappy defence of the war did not meet with that complete refutation which it might otherwise have received. The tone and language of his speech amply justified the opinion of those who believe that Sir Bartle Frere, in dragging the country into the calamities of war, has only been carrying out the policy of the ex-Colonial Secretary. He was the only peer who attempted an unqualified defence of the proceedings of the High Commissioner, and the result, we suspect, will prove as damaging to his reputation as to that of the man whom he sent out to South Africa to establish at all costs—even, it would appear, at the cost of war—a confederation which is manifestly not adapted to the present circumstances of the country. Lord Blachford, in his able speech, exposed the essential injustice which had characterised Sir B. Frere's settlement of the disputed boundary question; and upon this point Lord Carnarvon might have been expected frankly to admit that a wrong had been done to the Zulus. But Lord Carnarvon was as inconsequential as Lord Cadogan, who actually quoted Bishop Colenso as a supporter of Sir B. Frere's policy, although no one has shown more conclusively than the bishop that our conduct to the Zulus has been marked throughout by aggression and perfidy. No speaker made the least attempt to answer the arguments of Lord Kimberley and Lord Granville founded upon the peaceful relations which had existed between the British Government and the Zulus for a period of forty years.

The House of Lords, after listening to an exhaustive debate, rejected Lord Lansdowne's motion by a majority which the peers are always ready to give to a Conservative Ministry, whether the object be to defeat a Liberal measure or to approve of an unjust war. We warn our readers that the South African question, of which the Zulu war only forms a part, will call for the exercise of all their vigilance for a long time to come. There is much danger that the good name of England may be tarnished by acts of indiscriminate vengeance. The cry of the colonists of Natal is for "the extermination" of the Zulus. A correspondent rightly says that this cry is mainly "the product of fear," no one appearing to believe

"in an overruling Providence which works on the side of the right and the just." That feeling has already occasioned panics in Natal which have been shared by persons who ought to have set a better example of courage to their timorous neighbours. The story of the Jamaica repressions unfortunately shows that a panic-stricken colony has a capacity for cruelty which knows no limit except that fixed by the power of indulging it. It is the duty of the Government to send out imperative orders that hostilities shall be conducted with every regard for the usages of civilised warfare, that the lives and property of non-combatants shall be respected, and that advantage shall be taken of the first opportunity which may offer itself for discussing terms of peace. There is reason to believe that Cetewayo is fighting a war of self-defence. There is nothing to prevent him, if he thought fit, from crossing the Tugela and ravaging the colony, but he has not done so. On the contrary, he has punished the Induna who ordered the Zulus to cross the Buffalo and to attack the brave party at Borke's Drift; while his war-song, instead of breathing the ferocious spirit of a barbarian, declares that he is engaged in fighting for the defence of his own soil. The nation ought to protest with one voice against carrying on the war merely for the purpose of "retrieving a military disaster," which simply means that in order to gratify a spirit of revenge we ought not to rest satisfied until we have killed a few thousand more Zulus.

INTERMENTS IN CHURCHYARDS BILL.

The second reading of this bill—which has been brought in by Mr. Ritchie and three other Conservative members—stands second in the orders for to-day; but as it is preceded by an Irish bill it is doubtful whether it will come on. The following statement of objections has been circulated among members of the House of Commons by the Liberation Society:—

"The principal clause (1) of the bill provides that 'it shall be lawful' for the incumbent of a parish, upon the written application of the relatives, to permit a burial to take place in a churchyard without the service of the Church of England, and 'with such Christian and orderly religious services' as the relatives may desire, or without any religious service. The bill is open to the following objections:—

"1. It devolves upon the Established clergy the duty of dealing with a difficulty which ought to be dealt with by Parliament.

"2. It makes the exercise of the right of Nonconformists to have their own burial services in churchyards dependent upon the opinions or scruples, and, possibly, the antipathies or prejudices, of individual clergymen, and thereby practically withholds that which it professes to grant.

"3. It would involve the existence of one practice in one parish and of a different practice in another parish; and, as a consequence of changes in incumbencies, it would further involve, in some cases, a varying practice in the same parish.

"4. The exercise of the new authority thus given to the parochial clergy would frequently lead, not merely to personal irritation, but to ill-feeling and contention among the inhabitants of rural parishes, and would thus convert what is now a Parliamentary question into a subject of parochial agitation.

"5. So far from its being probable that the permission authorised by the bill would, in the majority of cases, be given, nearly fourteen thousand of the clergy have signed a declaration in which they avow themselves to be averse to the introduction into churchyards of Nonconformist burial services, and to be opposed to 'any legislation which shall permit persons not ministers of the Church of England to claim as of right to officiate in our churchyards, and to use forms and ceremonies therein which are not sanctioned by the English Church.'

"6. Professing to settle the burials question, the bill would renew the controversy in a worse form, and would probably increase, instead of remove, the bitterness occasioned by the operation of the present law."

Apropos of this bill it may be observed that the Society for the Rejection of the Burials Bill have repeated their advertisement containing the names of landowners who have given land for churchyards, protesting against these being used otherwise than in connection with the Church of England. This is an effective party move, but its hollowness has been often exposed—for there is no such thing as a Church of England apart from the State, nor can any bequests be made to it except as the National Church. But the society in question go far beyond this. They quote the following as from a "morning paper":—"Mr. Osborne Morgan's proposal has been varied from time to time, but at last it has

settled down to an unqualified suggestion that churches and churchyards should be thrown open." Now in the *Times* of Friday there appeared a letter from the hon. member for Denbighshire, in which, referring to the above, he stated that in none of the bills on the subject which he had brought in was there any reference to the throwing open of churches, nor had he advocated this in any speech. But notwithstanding his distinct disclaimer, the above quotation reappeared in the *Times* of yesterday as though the disclaimer had never been made. How are such tactics to be described?

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

We understand that the annual conference and public meeting of the Liberation Society will be held on the last Wednesday in April—the 30th—instead of the first Wednesday in May, as is customary. The change has been rendered necessary by the fact that throughout the first week in May there will be special engagements at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. As the society's meeting in that building has now established for itself the character of being one of the most effective demonstrations of the year, the committee have naturally been unwilling to incur the risks involved in holding it in another place.

CONVOCATION AND PARLIAMENT.

The Bishop of Carlisle has introduced into the House of Lords a bill to provide facilities for the amendment from time to time of the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England. "Presbyter" thus describes and objects to the measure in the *Record*:—"One is at a loss whether to admire more the simplicity or the boldness of the measure. By its provisions Convocation (with the leave of the Crown) may from time to time submit to the Queen in Council 'a scheme for making such alterations in and additions to the rubrics and directions in the Book of Common Prayer as may from time to time seem' to Convocation 'to be required.' Such scheme is to be laid before Parliament, and if neither House within forty days pray the Crown to withhold consent, an Order in Council may make it law. In other words, the Act of Uniformity may be repealed, and new rites and ceremonies, affecting the worship and the doctrine of the National Church, be made binding upon the whole nation, with no greater publicity than is now needed for the alteration of a College statute, or for legalising a new scheme of the Charity Commissioners. Will not Protestant Churchmen at once organise such an opposition to this Bill as shall prevent it ever becoming law? The objections to it are insuperable. (1) Convocation in no sense represents the Church of England, and cannot be trusted to take the initiative in the alteration of rubrics. Every alteration proposed by Convocation, as now constituted, would, we know too well, be antagonistic to Evangelical faith and doctrine. (2) No measure affecting the public worship of the nation ought to become law except through the public and searching ordeal involved in the passage of a bill through both Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Archibald Forbes has forwarded an article to the *Nineteenth Century* entitled "The Story of Constitutionalism in Burmah."

The "Balmoral Castle" steamer has brought to England from Madeira the remains of the late Professor Clifford, for interment in England. Mrs. Clifford was a passenger in the same steamer.

At the recent Cambridge local examinations twenty-one pupils from the Nonconformist Grammar School, Bishops Stortford, passed, several in honours.

The *Publishers' Circular* states that numerous applications from inspectors of schools, clergymen, schoolmistresses, and Sunday-school teachers, as well as parents, are made to the Religious Tract Society to publish a *Girl's Own Paper* as a companion magazine to the *Boy's Own Paper*. The success of the *Boy's Paper* has induced the Society to take the matter into consideration. We do not know if the need for such a periodical is equally urgent, but have little doubt that it would be successful, if conducted in the same spirit as the *Boy's Own Paper*.

In Miss Emily Faithfull's paper appears the following:—"We saw a Christmas card the other day which had been sent to a young lady at a School of Design. It represented a grotesque figure at a lecturer's desk, and underneath were these lines:—

"Where are you going to, my pretty maid?"

"I'm going to lecture, sir," she said.

"And what is the subject, my pretty maid?"

"The total extinction of man," she said.

"Then nobody'll marry you, my pretty maid."

"Advanced women don't marry, good sir," she said.

Literature.

GLADSTONE'S GLEANINGS.*

Last week we had occasion to bring before our readers a memoir of Lord Beaconsfield. To-day we have the more congenial task of introducing to their notice the gleanings of Mr. Gladstone's past years. Strange, indeed, is the contrast between the two careers, and between the literary products which represent the leisure and private studies of these so-called rivals. Rivals, indeed, they are not, so far as Mr. Gladstone is concerned. On the part of Beaconsfield a feverish eagerness to eclipse Mr. Gladstone, an acrid jealousy of the fame and honour which he possesses, a venomous enjoyment of any opportunity to cast contempt upon him and to sneer at the best and most sacred traits in his exalted character—these have been only too conspicuous; and consequently, as the self-seeking adventurer is obviously desirous of outstripping in the race for power his most distinguished contemporary, it is sometimes assumed and asserted that Mr. Gladstone is equally envious of Beaconsfield, and looks with rancour on his success. Those, however, who take any pains to know Mr. Gladstone are well aware that such petty aims are impossible to him, because he never seeks power or place for its own sake, or for personal advancement, but always because he is absorbed and possessed by great public aims, and sees in office a mighty machinery for promoting the happiness and welfare of men. Rivalry is impossible with such a nature as this. And as in this respect these two men are greatly contrasted, so in respect to their literary studies. Self is the scarcely veiled hero of all the D'Israeli novels: there is a tawdry glitter of self-assertion, a base adoration of success, and of all the tinsel and pomp and pageantry that an essentially vulgar mind regards as the best symbols of success. Fiction, for the most part, has been the chosen field for his literary activity. We do not blame Lord Beaconsfield because his literary powers have been exercised chiefly in this way. We have no fanatical objection to fiction; we can enjoy a good novel with an easy conscience, just as we can enjoy a good dinner. But when a public man pursues literature as a secondary aim, not because it has an uncontrollable attraction for him sufficient to absorb and monopolise all his energy, we think it antecedently probable that, in the case of a studious and earnest statesman, the exuberant force of mind which remains after the claims of public life are met, will expend itself in classic, historic, philosophic, or biographic studies rather than in fiction. So it is with Mr. Gladstone. The same earnestness and loftiness of spirit which are shown in his budget speeches and in his great legislative reforms, is also shown in these gleanings from the pursuits of his leisure hours. The two volumes before us are full of weighty thought, and we know not whether most to value them for their own sake and for the wisdom and broad, ample culture that is contained in them, or for the interesting and valuable commentary they supply on those qualities in Mr. Gladstone's mind and character which cannot readily find complete expression in public life. Here, as elsewhere, he is the advocate and expositor of all that is ennobling and refining in life. For example, we can plainly see in some of these essays the indications of a solid religious faith well settled in intellectual conviction and well grounded in historic fact, not a mere spasm of emotional excitement, not a sentimental rapture awakened by bodiless shapes of beauty and dignity. This is shown in a most masterly and instructive analysis of the Prince Consort's mental attitude to religion. Mr. Gladstone's own mental attitude to religion is well illustrated by his appreciation of the Prince Consort's. It is as far removed from narrowness and bigotry on the one side, as from the too easy tolerance of shadowy latitudinarianism on the other. With tender and kindly sympathy, he sees all the holy beauty of character that is possible for those who, like Charles Lamb (we are using Mr. Gladstone's own apt illustration),—

Give their hearts to the Purifier, their will to the Will that governs the universe. And yet they may but feebly and partially appreciate parts of Christian doctrine, nay they may . . . hold themselves apart from its central propositions. . . . We do not admit that the dissent, or only faint and partial adhesion of these exceptional human beings to the ancient creed of the Christian Church, detracts from its just authority; but we should be slow to charge the inadequacy of their doctrinal conceptions upon moral defect, or to deny the truth, force, and value of the heart-service

* *Gleanings of Past Years*. Vols. 1 and 2. By the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P. (London: John Murray.)

which they may and do render, and render with affectionate humility, to their Father and their God. The Christian dogma is the ordained means of generating and sustaining the religious life; but the Almighty is not tied to the paths He marks out for His servants, and we are nowhere authorised to say there can be no religious life, except as the direct product of the Christian dogma in its entirety. (Vol. I., pp. 56-7.)

The same large-hearted tolerance and true reverence for the Divine in character, whether it is associated with definite Christian faith or not, is beautifully shown in the notice of Blanco White, and still more in the most interesting sketch of Giacomo Leopardi, the greatest genius and poet that Italy has produced for many generations. There are few passages more touching and eloquent in all biographical literature than the closing sentences of this noble essay, in which the critic gives a masterly summary of the various endowments of this singular man of genius. He does not less appreciate his great powers, both of mind and heart, because he was an Atheist, and had turned aside not only from Christianity and revelation, but from natural religion in its first and simplest elements.

On a lower level of criticism is the even justice which can recognise the defects of those whom he most praises. The essay on Macaulay is a notable illustration of this. Mr. Gladstone does full justice to the wonderful powers of this distinguished man, but we do not remember to have met with any criticism which so fully displays the weaker and defective sides of his character—his inaptitude for reflection, the entire absence of the musing, speculative element in his mind—the hasty judgments which were so often wrong, but always irreversible. And as an illustration of the obverse aspect of this critical justice, the ability to abate and extenuate immoderate censure, and with a steady hand to hold the scales of judgment so that praise and censure become equally wise and equally credible, we cannot refrain from quoting the following generous and sagacious vindication of Bacon, taken from the essay on Macaulay:—

As regards the official impeachment of Bacon, if taken alone, it may establish no more against him than that, amidst the multitude of engrossing calls upon his mind, he did not extricate himself from the meshes of a practice full of danger and of mischief, but in which the dividing lines of absolute right and wrong had not then been sharply marked. Happless is he on whose head the world discharges the vials of its angry virtue; and such is commonly the case with the last and detected usufructuary of a golden abuse which has outlived its time. In such cases posterity may safely exercise its royal prerogative of mercy. (Vol. II., p. 306.)

Here, however, we must refer to a singular mistake into which Mr. Gladstone has fallen. He specifies "Mr. Paget, Mr. Hepworth Dixon, and, in a peculiar fashion, Dr. Abbott, as vindicators of Bacon," and again,—

To our imperfect knowledge the victory seems to lie with the advocates for the defence; the judgments of Macaulay we deem harsh, and his examinations superficial. But we would not tempt the reader to rely upon this opinion, since he has at hand ample and varied materials for the formation of his judgment. [And here the following foot-note is added.] (I must commend to especial notice the searching investigations of Dr. Abbott.—W. E. G., 1878.) (Vol. II., p. 306-7.)

It is, indeed, "in a peculiar fashion" that Dr. Abbott vindicates Bacon. His book on "Bacon and Essex" is, as we pointed out when it first appeared, one long, bitter, and, as we think, unjust and calumnious indictment against Bacon. In the whole volume there is not one sentence that contains as much vindication of Bacon as that which we have quoted from Mr. Gladstone himself.

Mr. Gladstone does indeed refer to Spedding, who is well entitled to the commendation which is mistakenly given to Dr. Abbott. If any one desires "ample and varied materials" for forming a judgment on Bacon's conduct and career, as well as cogent arguments for Bacon's defence, he will find them in Mr. Spedding's writings. Dr. Abbott does not contribute much in the way of original investigation—he criticises the materials which Spedding supplies, and gives plenty of adverse comment on Spedding's conclusions, but if Bacon, especially in his relations to Essex, is to be defended, it must be in spite of Dr. Abbott and not by his aid.

We need not linger over these delightful pages, especially as by the low price at which they are issued they are readily accessible to all. The papers are merely republications, and some of them have been referred to in our own columns, and are doubtless fresh in the memory of our readers. The most recent article is that very masterly account of some of the more subtle features of our political framework, which was published last September in the *North American Review*, entitled, "Kin Beyond Sea." Only a statesman who, as Cabinet Minister, had obtained practical insight into the working of the English Constitution could have written this article, which as an original study of political philosophy is entitled to take a high and authoritative position.

RUSSIA.*

The early history of Russia, though it is not devoid of incident, is not powerfully attractive to Englishmen. It would require a very great artist indeed to make it so. It seems remote from us—a gigantic, immobile, half-Oriental despotism set down in the midst of Europe, in which the story of progress and freedom only begins to unfold when other nations have made some approach to constitutionalism and liberty. When the lower classes in England began to realise a political existence, the Russian peasants were still sunk in serfdom. The political activity—the development of conscious class-power—which imparts such a thrilling interest to the study of English history, is thus lacking, and the very solidity and aspect of permanence which these Russian institutions present deprives history of that peculiar element of variety and picturesque change in social life and custom which Macaulay made so fascinating an element in his History of England. The antiquity of Russian institutions and their remarkable endurance will, however, have a special interest to the scientific and more speculative reader of these two volumes. To find that the *Mir*, or commune, and the *Vetché*, or council, existed in the ninth century, as it does to-day, is certainly striking, but the fact suggests nothing of that kind of action or effort which we nowadays regard as essential to historical interest. M. Rambaud writes:—

The commune, or *Mir*, was only the expansion of the family; it was subject to the authority of the elders of each household, who assembled in a council or *Vetché*. The village lands were held in common by all the members of the association; the individual only possessed his harvest, and the *dvor* or enclosure immediately surrounding his house. This primitive condition of property existing in Russia up to the present day, was once common to all European peoples.

Which explains what M. Rambaud at one place refers to as an expression of the peasants that though "their backs belonged to the lord, the land was their own." And here we must pay our tribute of admiration to the manner in which M. Rambaud has indicated the peculiar influence which Christianity has had in modifying or changing habit or belief, and the almost unique combination which is still presented of heathenism and Christianity in Russian symbolism.—

The Russian Church has been able to honour St. Dmitri and St. George, the slayers of dragons; St. John, who thunders in the spring; St. Elias, who recalls Ilia of Mouron; St. Blaise of Vlaisie, who has succeeded to Voloss as guardian of the flocks; St. Nicholas, or Mikoula, patron of labourers, like Mikoula Selianinovitch; St. Cosmas, or Kowzma, protector of blacksmiths, who has taken the place of Kowznets, the mysterious blacksmith forger of the destinies of man in the mountains of the north. In some popular songs the Virgin Mary replaces Did-Lado, and then St. John succeeds to Perun or Iarilo. Who can fail to recognise the myth of the spring and the fruitful rains accompanied by thunder, in this White Russian song that is repeated at the festival of St. John? "John and Mary bathed on the hill; while John bathed the earth shook, while Mary bathed the earth germinated." The Church has taken care to consecrate to the saints of her calendar, or to purify by holy rites the sacred trees and mysterious wells to which crowds of pilgrims continued to flock.

Very admirable also is the manner in which M. Rambaud traces out the Mongol and Byzantine influences.

We cannot here follow M. Rambaud, nor pause to speak of his fine treatment of Rurik and his plans, nor of the dispersion after Iaroslav the Great, nor the great effort at reunion under the successive Ivans. With Peter the Great the Europeanisation of Russia began, it was carried forward with characteristic vigour by Catherine the Second, and formed more or less of a great element of policy in the reign of each successive Sovereign, till Alexander the Second in our own time set the crown upon it by his great measure for the emancipation of the serfs. With that movement Russia was really admitted among the European peoples—it formed the long-delayed but legitimate outcome of Peter the Great's emancipation of women from the Oriental seclusion and enslavement which till his day had been their lot. M. Rambaud rises to eloquence when speaking of the great reforms of Peter the Great:—

The mass of the people still remained serfs and attached to the soil,—twenty millions of human beings were the property of the territorial oligarchy; but, notwithstanding, the Russian nation was to be furnished with the instruments necessary to enter into regular communications with the free people of Europe. Russia was to seem a State centralised and civilised like the France of Louis XIV., yet the patriarchal and Asiatic principle, which, confounding paternal and territorial authority with political rule, presided over the relations of the father with his children, of the Czar with his subjects, of the proprietor with his slaves, of the superior with his inferiors, was still unimpaired. On a social organisation, which

* *The History of Russia, from the Earliest Times to 1877.* By ALFRED RAMBAUD, Professor in the Faculty of Letters at Nancy, &c., &c. Translated from the French by LEONORA B. LANG. In Two Vols. With Illustrations. (Sampson Low, Marston, and Co.)

seemed to date from the eleventh century, were to rise diplomacy, a regular army, a bureaucratic hierarchy, schools and academies, and the trade and manufactures of a luxurious civilisation.

A fourth characteristic of the reforms of Peter the Great was that, in order completely to transport European civilisation into Russia, he was obliged to borrow everything from strangers, without always having the time to choose the institutions best suited to his purpose. What is meant by civilisation was then, and is still, the civilisation of the West; therefore, Peter surrounded himself with Dutchmen, Englishmen, Scotchmen, Swiss, and Germans. For the same reasons he imported in the mass manufactures, trades, and artisans; had Western books translated, and sprinkled his administrative terminology with words borrowed from Sweden or Germany. That he might introduce Western ideas he made himself a Dutchman and a German, forbade his subjects to wear the long garments peculiar to Asia, and wished them to adopt the short trousers, the cocked hat, and buckled shoes of Europe.

There was nothing servile, however, in this imitation; it was the method of the man of genius, who wished to outstrip time and hasten reforms by a hundred years.

He intended that the Russians should be the pupils and not the subjects of the Germans; and as under his German dress he remained a Russian patriot, he reserved the first posts in the army and State for the natives.

The next passage presents some of the author's reflections on certain significant circumstances in the reign of Catherine:—

From a social point of view Poland was a nation of agricultural serfs, overlaid by a numerous class of small nobility, themselves subject to a few great families, against whom the king was absolutely powerless. There was no middle class at all, unless we give that name to some thousands of Catholic citizens, and to a million of Jews, who had no interest in maintaining a state of things which condemned them to eternal opprobrium. Economically, she had a primitive system of agriculture worked by a serf population, little commerce, no retail trade, no public finances. Politically, the country was only legally composed of nobles. The rivalry of the great families, the anarchy of the diets, the weakness of the royal power, the *pacta conventa*, the *liberum veto*, the confederations or diets under the shield, the inveterate habit of invoking the intervention of strangers, or of selling them their votes, had extinguished in Poland the very idea of law and a State. From a military point of view the Polish soldiers were merely the lawless soldiers of the Middle Ages; she had only the cavalry of her nobility, no infantry, little artillery, and scarcely any fortresses on her frontiers, which were everywhere exposed. Maurice de Saxe affirms in his "Reveries," that it only required 48,000 men to conquer Poland. What could she do, divided against herself, long ago corrupted by the gold of her enemies, enclosed by three powerful monarchies, who hardly thought they were violating her frontiers by occupying her territory, and whose ambassadors had more power in her diets than the king?

Catherine and Frederic had come to an understanding on two essential points—to vindicate the rights of the dissenters, and to prevent all reform of the anarchic institution which was giving Poland into their hands. While affecting to espouse the cause of tolerance they made Europe forget that it was to be gained at the price of the independence and integrity of the country. The noisy fanaticism of the Poles helped them to conceal their object.

M. Rambaud naturally devotes a large portion of the second volume to the story of the Crimean war and its causes, and is here as clear and penetrating as elsewhere. England's position is fairly defined:—

England hesitated to take part in a quarrel in which she saw little but the question of the "holy places" and the pretensions of France; but on the 9th and 14th of January, 1853, two private interviews between Nicholas and the English ambassador, Sir Hamilton Seymour, revealed to the British Minister the ultimate aim of all the Emperor's schemes. Their aim was nothing less than to wind up the bankrupt estate of the "Sick Man." Servia, the Principalities, and Bulgaria were to form independent States under the protection of Nicholas. As to Constantinople, if circumstances obliged him to occupy it, he would establish himself there as a trustee, and not as a proprietor. England should in her turn be free to appropriate territories at her convenience, provided she did not stretch out her hand for Constantinople. "Now," he said, "it is as a friend and a gentleman that I speak to you; if England and myself can come to an understanding about this affair, the rest matters little to me, and I shall care very little as to what the others may think or do." He insisted on this latter point. "If we are only agreed, I am completely at ease about the West of Europe; what the others may think at the bottom of their heart is of small importance." These "others" were first France and then Austria. Nicholas flattered himself that he could persuade and carry away the English; but it did not enter into his calculations that Napoleonic France could ever form an alliance with the England of Waterloo, of St. Helena, and of Hudson Lowe. The imprudent confidence to Seymour rendered the strange alliance possible. England took fright, and it was now her turn to urge France to energetic measures. The invasion of the Principalities appeared to her to be the first step towards the execution of the schemes of dismemberment.

M. Rambaud well points out how, in reference to all her more recent conflicts, the serfdom of Russia was a great and almost fatal drawback to her:—

The peasant, while resigning himself to this condition of affairs, had not entirely lost all sense of his right. His ancient right to the ownership of the land he expressed after his own fashion in the proverb, "Our backs are the lord's, but the soil is our own." He forgot less easily than Government the fact that the peasant's obligation to serve the lord was correlative to the lord's obligation to serve the Tzar. When Peter III. in his short reign freed the nobles from the obligation of serving the State, the peasant expected that the corollary of this first edict would be a second edict, setting free the peasant from

his bondage to the soil and from paying dues to the lord. Hence the troubles of 1762, the insurrection of 1773, when a false Peter III. appeared to finish the work of the deceased Emperor. During the campaign of 1812, the peasants for a moment believed that Napoleon was bringing them liberty, and the agitation was revived during the Crimean war. Serfage was decidedly the weak point of Russia. An invader could raise against her at once a servile and a foreign war.

In respect of popular education, much certainly remains to be done:—

Primary education leaves more to be desired than that of any other country in Europe. Russia, with her 9 or 10 per cent. of people who can read, is below even Austria, which only reckons 29 per cent. In France the average is 77 per cent. Thanks to the efforts of the Minister of Public Instruction and the Minister of War in his regimental schools, the average is slowly but surely rising. Primary education is more advanced in Poland because of the efforts of the Government; in the Baltic provinces and in Finland because of the Protestant culture; in Central Russia because of the industrial influences. In 1871 the Minister Tolstoi, in his report to the Emperor, enumerates 24,000 schools attended by 875,000 scholars, and 424 superior primary schools, attended by 27,830 scholars.

The following passage, with which we close our review of a most valuable book which comes before us in careful and forcible English, indicates the great points in the foreign policy of Russia which for years she has kept and still faithfully keeps before her:—

The foreign policy of Russia, in spite of all changes, has never allowed itself to be turned from the three aims which she has followed since Ivan the Great—the conclusion of the duel with the Polo-Lithuanian State for the hegemony of the Slav world; the struggle with her Western neighbours to secure the freedom of the Baltic and the Black Sea; and the revenge for the Tatar yoke, whether taken on the Turanians of Central Asia or those of Constantinople. In the interior a new path has been opened to her by the civilising reforms of the eighteenth century, and by the emancipating reforms of the present reign. After having conquered her place among the European States, she has to secure her rank among free nations.

BRET HARTE'S NEW TALES.*

That mingled roughness of manner and refinement of feeling—that quaint, strong directness of style and strange reserve of sentiment—that dashing, dare-devil kind of humour naturally represented, even down to a suggestion of a significant oath, used at once to conceal and to reveal the first heart-thrill—these characteristics are all here as in Bret Harte's preceding stories. We have nothing nearly so ambitious in point of construction as in the first efforts by which the author made his name so well known. This may be easily realised when we say that in this little volume of some 300 pages we have no fewer than fourteen stories or sketches and the same number of poems—some of these last being of a free and dashing half-Ingoldsby sort, of which the "Legend of Cologne" is the most considerable, but disfigured, as we think, by an over proportion of bad rhymes—for even in this kind of writing there is a limit in respect to this point. "Thompson of Angels" is inadequate: it seems written merely to show what Mr. Bret Harte can do with the hexameter, but has no other merit. Much better is "Telemachus versus Mentor," which has some humour; and better yet "The Latest Chinese Outrage." Of the stories the first, "The Heiress of Red Dog," "A Ghost of the Sierras," and "The Man on the Beach" strike us as by far the best—though all are, as we have said, in a way characteristic and readable. Few who read the book will forget the "Heiress of Red Dog"—poor Peg Moffatt—so exceedingly plain that nobody could understand why the old eccentric should have left his wealth to her, any more than they could understand why, with so great a fortune, she should still slave in an hotel or give away money to a scamp in the way she did. The sketch must be read to be fully appreciated, but the following will give the reader some glimpse of Peg's secrets, and also of the realistic way in which Bret Harte treats his subject and reveals the facts which throw light on all that has gone before:—

"When Jim Byways left me this yer property," she began, looking cautiously around, "he left it to me on condition. Not conditions ez was in his written will—but conditions ez was spoken. A promise I made him in this very room, Mr. Hamlin—this very room, and on that very bed you're sittin' on, in which he died."

Like most gamblers, Mr. Hamlin was superstitious. He rose hastily from the bed, and took a chair beside the window. The wind shook it as if the discontented spirit of Mr. Byways were without, reinforcing his last injunction.

"I don't know if you remember him," said Peg feverishly. "He was a man ez hed suffered. All that he loved—wife, fammerly, friends—had gone back on him! He tried to make light of it afore folks; but with me, being a poor gal, he let himself out. I never told anybody this—I don't know why he told me—I don't know," continued Peg, with a sniff, "why he wanted to make me unhappy too. But he made me promise that if he left me his fortune I'd never—never, so help

me God—never share it with any man or woman that I loved! I didn't think it would be hard to keep that promise then, Mr. Hamlin, for I was very poor, and hedn't a friend nor a living bein' that was kind to me but him."

"But you've as good as broken your promise already," said Hamlin; "you've given Jack money—as I know."

"Only what I made myself! Listen to me; Mr. Hamlin. When Jack proposed to me, I offered him about what I kalkilated I could earn myself. When he went away, and was sick and in trouble, I came here and took this hotel. I knew that by hard work I could make it pay. Don't laugh at me, please—I did work hard, and did make it pay—without takin' one cent of the fortin. And all I made, workin' by night and day, I gave to him! I did, Mr. Hamlin. I ain't so hard to him as you think; though I might be kinder, I know."

Mr. Hamlin rose, deliberately resumed his coat, watch, hat, and overcoat. When he was completely dressed again, he turned to Peg.

"Do you mean to say that you've been givin' all the money you make here to this A 1 first-class cherubim?"

"Yes! but he didn't know where I got it. Oh, Mr. Hamlin, he didn't know that."

"Do I understand you, that he's bin buckin agin faro with the money that you raised on hash? And you makin' the hash?"

"But he didn't know that—he wouldn't hev took it if I'd told him."

"No, he'd hev died fust!" said Mr. Hamlin gravely. "Why, he's that sensitive—is Jack Folinsbee—that it nearly kills him to take money even of me. But where does this angel reside when he isn't fightin' the tiger, and is, so to speak, visible to the naked eye?"

"He—he—stops here," said Peg, with an awkward blush.

"I see. Might I ask the number of his room—or should I be a—disturbing him in his meditations?" continued Jack Hamlin, with grave politeness.

"Oh, then you'll promise? And you'll talk to him, and make him promise."

"Of course," said Hamlin quietly.

"And you'll remember he's sick—very sick? His room's No. 44, at the end of the hall. Perhaps I'd better go with you?"

"I'll find it."

"And you won't be too hard on him?"

"I'll be a father to him," said Hamlin demurely, as he opened the door and stepped into the hall. But he hesitated a moment, and then turned and gravely held out his hand. Peg took it timidly; he did not seem quite in earnest—and his black eyes, vainly questioned, indicated nothing. He shook her hand warmly, and the next moment was gone.

And Jack Hamlin had his interview with Folinsbee, with proper agreement to carry out next day certain plans, but Jack Folinsbee's spirit that night took its flight on the wings of the South-east storm, and Peg, when she died, left the property to a distant relative of Jack Folinsbee.

THE REV. JOHNSON BARKER'S SERMONS.*

We have been delighted with the exceeding freshness and point of the eight sermons included in this small volume. Not less have we been pleased with their breadth, although, in one or two respects, they might have been even broader. One fault several of them possess. Mr. Barker in his preface refers to the fact of "the freedom and iteration of the spoken address being in many places purposely retained"; but this should not include reiteration and reiteration again. Mr. Barker has carried, in this series of sermons, "iteration," as he terms it, somewhat too far. Statements and ideas are repeated more than once. It may be advantageous and effective to follow this plan occasionally, but we should judge it to be dangerous to practise it often.

Returning now to the best characteristics of these addresses—and the best are many—we first notice the theological candour with which the earliest recorded spiritual temptation is treated. Mr. Barker says:—

Now there are three possible ways of reading this story of the fall. It may be read as history; in every sentence of it literally true. It may be read as poetry; true, but not literally true: true as the parables are true; true as Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" is true. Or it may be read as history blended with poetry; the historic facts of an actual occurrence, and a genuine experience, partially veiled under the thin transparency of imaginative form. It is in this third way that I think it should be read.

The man and woman, innocent, yet frail and temptable. The tempter. The temptation. The fall. All this is history.

But the form of the temptation through a serpent and the fruit of a forbidden tree—this surely is not history. It is only the poetic clothing or rendering of some profound spiritual and supernatural truths which quite possibly could not be otherwise conveyed. And I know of nothing either in the Scriptures or out of them to compel us to read this part of the story in any other way. "The letter killeth, the spirit giveth life." To insist on a close adhesion to the letter in every word and syllable of a narrative like this would be to kill the faith of many, and make them blind to the spiritual teaching it contains.

For, consider:—

This serpent speaks: speaks like a human being.

This serpent not only speaks, but reasons: reasons like a casuist.

To hear a serpent speak and reason does not in the

* *Forbidden Fruit. A Series of Sermons on Temptation, &c.* By the Rev. JOHNSON BARKER, LL.B. (W. Kent and Co.)

least alarm or startle the woman: she is, on the contrary, fascinated and beguiled.

To this serpent is ascribed the origin of human sin. "Because THOU hast done this," is to the serpent the language of the curse. The theory of those who read this part of the narrative literally, is that the serpent was the evil spirit in a serpent's form, but it is a theory which receives no warrant from the narrative itself—which is imported into it from without, and for which, so far as I know, there is no Scriptural authority; and when, in order to explain a narrative, you begin to intrude ideas of your own, which do not necessarily belong to it, you have then surely ceased to read it literally. It is the serpent, moreover, that is cursed, not Satan. On the theory that the serpent was Satan in the serpent's form, why curse the serpent? In the very beginning of your Bible on such a theory you throw a shadow on the character of God.

This is more candid than the usual treatment of this once difficult subject, but there will be persons who, having read this, will expect more in the same direction. Here, however, Mr. Barker will probably not satisfy them. While rejecting the literal history of the tempter, he still holds, or apparently so, to the literal history of the tempted. Some curious readers will ask, Why and how? But the author gives us no answer to these questions. He is very happy, however, in treating the whole history as a typical one, and we have very seldom met with better expressed spiritual truth drawn from this subject than in the pages before us, nor truth more happily expressed for the present generation.

Mr. Barker believes in a supreme tempter, but he wisely says:—

A supreme tempter I believe there is, who, through human influences and agencies, and by all manner of allurements, can act upon our frailties and seduce us into wrong. The Scriptures so teach, and so I verily believe. But a tempter who is supreme in the sense of possessing unlimited power and indefinite resources, and who with or without our consent, can do with us as he wills, is a fiction as much as is the Satan of Milton or the Mephistopheles of Faust. There are those who imagine such a tempter. They unconsciously exalt him into rivalry with God, and clothe him with attributes of power scarcely less than divine. In such a tempter, on the equal authority of Scripture, I do not verily believe.

We are not left, like the leaves of autumn in the wind, the helpless sport of invisible forces or spirits of evil. This world is God's world, not the devil's, and it is God who governs it. Man is God's child, not the devil's. His by creation. His by affection. His by the redemptive grace of Christ. And hence temptation has its limits.

Concerning the limit of temptation, how tersely this is put:—

Hence the scope for temptation widens with the enlargement of our faculties and gifts. It contracts as they lessen and diminish. A blind man is less temptable than one that sees, a deaf man than one that hears. There are seductions of sense from which, through the contraction of the sense, they will each of them be free. We may be tempted through the intellect, but not if we are ignorant, unthinking bores, without a thought beyond the drudgeries and bare necessities of life. We may be tempted through the affections, but not if we are cold-natured creatures, with nothing warmer in us than a heart of stone. The narrowing of the nature in every case limits the area of temptation: the possible temptations grow as the nature grows. So that it would, I think, be true to say that the greatest saints are the men who, temptation unresisted, might have been the greatest sinners; and the greatest sinners are the men who, temptation resisted, would have been the greatest saints.

The other subjects discussed in this volume are the "Purpose of Temptations," the "Temptations of Business," "Home Temptations," the "Helper of the Tempted," and then there is a "Summary and Conclusion." We recommend this brief series of addresses as wisely thought out, happily expressed, and practically helpful.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

THE PITT PRESS SERIES.—*The Anabasis of Xenophon.* Book II. By ALFRED PRETOR, M.A. *Caii Julii Cæsaris de Bello Gallico Commentarium.* Books IV. V. By A. G. PESKETT, M.A. *M. Tullii Ciceronis Laelius, sive de Amicitia.* By JAMES S. REID, M.L. *M. Daru, par M. C. A. Sainte-Beuve.* By GUSTAVE MASSON, B.A. *Voltaire, Siècle de Louis XIV.* By GUSTAVE MASSON and G. W. PROTHERO. *Der Oberhof.* By KARL IMMERMAN. WILHELM WAGNER, Ph.D. (Cambridge University Press.) These volumes of the Pitt Press do not call for any individual or special treatment. They are alike in plan and execution. Furnished with introductions, the texts are broken into paragraphs numbered for reference, and are followed by notes grammatical and illustrative. We are glad to find that the best French and German writers are introduced to the higher schools with the classical authors. M. Gustave Masson has done well in choosing a portrait from Sainte-Beuve. Dr. Wagner has also enriched our school literature by this short story by Karl Immermann. Our students of modern languages have confined their attention hitherto too exclusively to grammatical forms in text-books—a generous use of literature has been long needed. Books like these supply the want early in the scholar's career.

* *An Heiress of Red Dog, and other Tales.* By BRET HARTE. (Chatto and Windus.)

Le Barbier de Séville, ou La Précaution Inutile. Comédie en quatre Actes. Par Beaumarchais. Edited by L. P. BLOUET, B.A., &c. (London: Macmillan and Co.) This is an independent volume by the French master of St. Paul's School. It resembles those edited by M. Gustave Masson, but contains, besides the introductory notice of the comedy, a short life of its author.

The French Language. By E. ROUBAUD, B.A. Paris. (London: Crosby, Lockwood, and Co.) This little work on the history and etymology of the French language is an admirable introduction to larger works. It is brief, but compactly arranged, and the index will assist the memory of the student. The derivation of the words of the language, and the inflections, are arranged under the parts of speech.

The Synthetic Latin Delectus. By EDWARD RUSH, B.A. Preface by the Rev. W. F. MOULTON, M.A., D.D. (Macmillan and Co.) This delectus differs from the older ones by its arrangement. The sentences to be construed are grouped under the headings furnished by a grammatical analysis. The plan is probably a good one, and that it has the approval of two such experienced teachers as those whose names are on the title is sufficient to ensure a fair trial for it.

Elementary Geometry; Congruent Figures. By OLAVUS HENRICI, Ph.D., F.R.S. (London: Longmans and Co.) This is the last volume of the elementary series of London Science Class Books to which we have already called attention. It is also the most distinguished of this or any similar series. Indeed, so far as we are aware, it is the most original treatise on geometry that has been produced in this country. There have been many more or less successful attempts to supersede Euclid's Geometry, but chiefly by way of rearranging his materials. Still, Euclid was always present, like some sacerdotal element in the Lutheran Church. Professor Henrici has, however, given us a geometry which may be contrasted, but scarcely compared, with that of Euclid. In the limited space at our disposal we cannot do more than by a sentence or two indicate the nature of the work. It may be described as the union of practical with scientific geometry. The former rests upon experience of things in space and the art of dealing practically with them. The latter requires a systematic analysis of the properties of space. These two are called in by Professor Henrici to reciprocally aid each other. "In order however, to refer constantly to the concrete, geometrical drawing ought to be combined systematically with the teaching of geometry. This is scarcely possible in connection with Euclid; and a student who wishes to make a practical use of geometry has to make a separate study of geometrical drawing, whether or not he has already studied and mastered Euclid." For this purpose exercises have been added to each chapter, chiefly in drawing, but also on the logic of the proofs. It is too much to hope that this unpretending little volume will come into general use in public schools for some time to come; but it may be hoped that no one interested in the study of geometry will fail to read it with care.

THE BATTERSEA SERIES OF STANDARD READING BOOKS.—Written and compiled by EVAN DANIEL, M.A.—*Primers I. and II.—Standards I. and II.* (London: Edward Stanford.) Mr. Daniel is the principal of a training college for teachers, and brings, therefore, considerable experience to the task of compiling these text-books. The First Primer contains a lesson on teaching how to read. The alphabet is arranged in order of simplicity of structure, those composed of vertical and horizontal lines being made and taught first, then the combinations of the circle and its parts with straight lines. The reading lessons begin with exercises on the vowels combined with consonants in the simplest forms. In the later books the chief endeavour of the editor has been to lighten the labour of the child in learning to read; very wisely, we think, he "has subordinated the communication of knowledge to the primary object of a reader, viz., teaching a child to read." We may add that these books are well printed, have a few clear illustrative pictures, and are strongly bound.

English Grammar for Beginners. By A. COURT-HOPE BOWEN, M.A. (London: C. Kegan Paul and Co.) Mr. Bowen has produced a grammar which is to some extent original, and will be certainly found interesting to children. It begins with the sentence, and after explaining its functions in a very simple way, proceeds to classify words according to their powers. This is the least technical grammar we know, while it is full of sound and practical instruction.

COLLINS' SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CLASSICS.—*Bacon's Essays, XXXII.—LVIII.* With Introduction and Notes by Rev. Henry Lewis. (W. Collins and Co.) This is the second volume of a very creditable edition of Bacon's Essays. The notes are purely illustrative of the words of the text, the usage of which in contemporary literature is well shown. Explanations are also given of a few phrases of doubtful meaning, and of matters now antiquated and little known. We would venture to suggest to Mr. Lewis that an occasional use of etymology would have helped the younger reader to see the difference between the usage of the same words by Bacon and by us.

Manual of Modern Geography, Physical, Political, and Commercial. By W. LAWSON, F.R.G.S., St. Mark's College, Chelsea. (W. Collins and Co.) Mr. Lawson shows that he is alive to the dangers which beset the writer of a geographical text-book. But we cannot think that he has altogether avoided them. His book is too full of details, but in the hands of a good teacher they may be used as materials for description. Mr. Lawson writes graphically, and has an eye for picturesque facts in the surface of a country. The little wood-cuts are in most cases really illustrative of the text.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Notes on the Gospels. By the Rev. S. A. GRIFFITHS, St. Matthew. (London: Elliot Stock.) The author of this little volume tells us in his preface that he does not claim to occupy ground hitherto unexplored, or to throw light on work already done; but that he has been impelled to his task by a want often experienced when preparing for examinations, and which others have felt equally with himself. Mr. Griffiths was possibly not acquainted with the Notes on Matthew by the Rev. Eustace Conder, or the Notes on the Gospels by the Rev. J. Davies; or he may have considered that there was yet room for another work of the same class. And hence he has added one more to the valuable list of notes, critical and exegetical, on the New Testament. We can fully endorse the testimony of the Bishop of Worcester, that "These notes are the result of much thought and reading," and have no doubt that they will be appreciated by those for whose special benefit they have been prepared. They are written in a clear scholarly manner, and in a spirit thoroughly Evangelical. The introductory chapters, of which there are fourteen, form a distinctive feature of the book, and certainly enhance its value. Teachers of senior classes in Sunday-schools will find these notes very serviceable.

Bible Echoes in Ancient Classics. By CRAWFORD TAIT RAMAGE, LL.D. (Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black.) This volume cannot fail to interest both students of the Bible and students of the classics. Referring to previous attempts of the same kind, Dr. Ramage says:—"All these are only available to the learned, and are of a limited nature. This work has a wider scope, and aims at bringing within the reach of a large body of educated men, though their knowledge of the classical languages may be slight, the profound thoughts of the ancient poets and philosophers, that may be regarded as little else than echoes of the inspired writers. Some of these approach so closely to Christian truths that it is difficult to resist the belief that the Hebrew Scriptures must have been known to the educated Greeks and Romans. The fathers of the Church in early times were inclined to believe that this was the case, and recommended the study of profane writers. Heathen philosophy, according to Clement, paved the way to what was completed in Christ. We are told that God never left Himself without witness, and may we not include Socrates, Plato, Cicero, Seneca, and other philosophers, among those witnesses of His truths, though their thoughts are not to be put on a level with His own revelation to man?" We cannot give a correct idea of Dr. Ramage's book except by quoting a specimen. And the very first page will serve the purpose as well as any other. We omit the original Greek and Latin; otherwise the following is an exact transcript:—

GENESIS I. 1.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

HOM., *Il.* xviii., 483.—He made the earth, the heaven, the sea, the never-tiring sun, the waxing moon, and all the stars with which the heaven is studded.

This beautiful description of the heavens, as depicted on the shield of Achilles, is thought by Clement, Justin Martyr, and other fathers of the Church, to be a shadowing forth by Homer of the creation of the world by the Almighty. [Dr. R.]

Aristot., *De Mundo*, i. 6.—There is a saying of old date, and handed down from their ancestors to all men, that all things come from God, and through God to us.

Cic., *Nat. D.*, ii. 38.—Could we say that he was a

rational being if we found a man who ascribed to chance, and not to an intelligent cause, the uniform motion of the heavens, the regular courses of the stars, and the just connection of all things, so wonderfully conducted that our intellect cannot comprehend the way in which it is brought about?

Cic., *Nat. D.*, ii. 2.—What can be so plain and evident when we raise our eyes to heaven and contemplate the celestial bodies as that there is some supreme Divine Intelligence by which all these things are directed?

Virg., *Æn.*, vi. 724.—In the first place it is the Divine Intelligence that supports the heaven, the earth, the liquid expanse of sea, the radiant orb of the moon, and the stars of giant size: it is this active principle that, penetrating, animates the whole universe, uniting and mingling with the mighty mass.

Max. Tyr., *Dissert.* 41.—Let us ask Jove, Who is the father and author of all that is good among men? what was the commencement, what the source, whence it came? Unless, indeed, we should not plague God about such trifles, especially as we perceive the mode in which things are arranged, and see with our eyes the cause, and the very fountainhead, when we know the Father and artificer of all these, the Being who governs the heaven, who guides the sun and moon, who directs the revolution, the whirling and course of the stars, who dispenses the seasons, who rules the winds, who forms the sea, who makes the world, who causes the rivers to flow, nourishes the fruits of the earth, the parent of all living creatures.

Dr. Ramage proceeds from Genesis to Revelation, and culls from the classics the most obscure, as well as those best known, passages which he calls "Bible Echoes." Very many of these, however, are only parallelisms, and our author would not contend that they are in any proper sense echoes of the Bible-texts with which he connects them. We should not fail to note that the book is admirably "edited"—the type being everything that could be desired to make the page pleasant to the eye, while a chronological list of the authors quoted, and a very complete index, make the book perfect as a book of reference. The quotations are taken from not fewer than one hundred and forty-nine authors.

The Historical Finger Post: A Handy Book of Terms, Phrases, Epithets, Cognomens, Allusions, &c., in connection with Universal History. By EDWARD SHELTON, one of the contributors to the "Reason Why," &c. Tenth Thousand. (Houlston and Sons.) Necessarily such a book as this cannot be exhaustive, and it cannot be implicitly relied on for all the information that may be sought; because to have made it so would simply have been to negative the qualities of selectness and compactness so much needed in a volume of the kind. Mr. Shelton has come fairly near to doing well all that he professed to do. He selects with judgment, and condenses with care; sometimes carrying the latter to excess. For instance, it would only have cost one line more to tell that the Lombards were the "Long-beards," and to have given the origin of the name shortly. He gives a variety of sections, as revolutions, laws, dignities, religious sects, races, superstitions, romances, personal epithets, surnames, national epithets, mottoes, memorable sayings, books of faith, literature, art, science, &c., and reference is made easy by a full and careful general index. These two extracts, so far interesting in themselves, will give a pretty fair idea of how the book is done:—

SENTENCES, MASTER OF.—Peter Lombard; a scholastic theologian was so called, born about 1100 in Lombardy; died about 1164. There is extant from his pen a theological course of great repute, under the title of the "Four Books of Sentences," in which are collected the various opinions of the Fathers of the Church on each point in theology. This book has furnished inexhaustible food for scholastic dispute, and has had a crowd of commentators.

SON OF HEAVEN, BROTHER OF THE MOON, ETC.—These extravagant titles are assumed by the Emperor of China, implying that he is absolute lord, not only of China, but of the whole world—representative and vice-regent of the Deity, who centres within himself all earthly power and greatness. The vast extent of the Chinese empire favours such an illusion; and the ignorance and superstition of the people encourage the belief.

Jerocam's Wife and other Poems. (C. Kegan Paul and Co.) It is not the first poem in this book—a Scriptural narrative in most awkward blank verse—nor the second, of which we shall say a word in a moment, that has led us to notice this little volume, but a quite modest little morsel hidden away towards the end, like a violet looking forth from a world of common leafage—another instance of the common saw that people are not generally strongest where they think themselves so, and half despise the little things that they really can do well. That second poem shows all the worst faults of the too fashionable idyll, and were it not that the author shows some skill in hiding faults of conception by clever expedients in rhyme, would be literally commonplace. Nowadays we know what to expect from an idyll beginning thus:—

May, James, and Emily in one village dwelt;
And when the heats of youth were past, James felt
His whole heart turn towards the younger, May.

"Rachel" is good, and "Twilight" has some musical lines; but the sonnets, "In Florence," are failures, though the forms are true enough. We see the thoughts controlled and directed too strictly by the rhymes. But this has a ring of reality and sincerity too, and is suggestive and beautiful in pathos also:—

AN ORPHAN.

Mother is dead; so simply said
With a slight droop of the curly head,
Just like a flower at fall of rain
Bent to be lifted up again.

Mother is dead; I had no dread,
Saw no other to ask instead,
Spoke to the child as if naught had occurred;
Saw it all in a single word.

Mother is dead: two little feet led
Where the turf was newly, newly spread.
Then with a sob that startled me,
Mother, O mother, to have died with thee!

We should add that the sonnet "L'Envoi" is by far the best of that class in the book.

We have received somewhat late the *Country Pocket-Book and Diary for 1879*. It contains within a small and convenient compass elaborately drawn up tables for noting shooting, fishing, athletics, cricketing, and country sports and matters in general; also a mass of information interesting to the sportsman and country gentleman.

THE SCOTCH CHURCH.—SIR ALEXANDER GORDON'S BILL.

This measure, whose professed object is to "make further provision in regard to the Church of Scotland; to facilitate the reunion therewith of other Presbyterian Churches in Scotland; and for other purposes relating thereto," has already been described in our columns. There is no prospect that it will be discussed in the House of Commons before June, and probably it will be altogether crowded out for this session. The bill has been under the consideration of the Disestablishment Committee of the United Presbyterian Synod, whose convener is the Rev. Dr. Hutton, and they have adopted a series of resolutions which fully reveal its real character. They contend "that the bill is a purely State Church and sectarian measure, dealing with public property solely, in the interest of a section of the religious public, transferring to Church courts powers exercised by the civil courts as organs of public justice, and converting civil courts into agencies for giving effect to ecclesiastical monopoly. That it is a renewed attempt in the spirit of the Patronage Act of 1874 to reconstruct the Establishment to the prejudice of the Free Churches, and in open disregard of their most distinctive protests—in particular, of the protests of United Presbyterian and other Dissenters, and their demand for a final measure of disestablishment and disendowment, which would terminate in an equitable manner, and at once, the State control which it is sought to relax, and the State endowments and status to which, amid all other changes desired or accepted by the Kirk, it cleaves as vital. That its attempts to bestow spiritual independence are as delusive as its mode of dealing with general interests is unjust and presumptuous. Since it is only by authority of Parliament that the liberties sought in the bill are made 'lawful,' or 'declared' to exist, any relaxations of legal control that may be conceded leave Parliament, as before, the sole fountain of jurisdiction and liberty to the Establishment, and the attempts to imitate the rights and liberties of Free Churches by creating legal rights to resemble theirs, can only satisfy those who confound a statutory with a Scriptural freedom. That it is by disestablishment alone that true ecclesiastical liberty, which is not held by the tenure of statute, but directly from its Divine source, can be enjoyed; and only by disestablishment that the public property now monopolised by a section of Presbyterians can be freed for unsectarian uses, by which the people of Scotland generally may benefit. That all such legislation as this bill proposes, and any new legislation on behalf of the Kirk as a national Church, aggravates the injustice and offence caused by the perpetuation of the Establishment in the face of Free Churches, and ought to be met by resolute opposition and the constant demand for disestablishment, to which all who promote such legislation, however well-intentioned, must be regarded as hostile. That the Synod which they represent has repeatedly, and notably in connection with the patronage legislation of 1874, recorded its condemnation of all such legislation, designed to perpetuate the system of the State Church, under whatever modifications of legal control, and has urged on Government and Parliament its abolition; holding that with disestablishment none of the evils which such legislation is professedly employed to remedy within the Kirk could exist for an hour, while the offence and grievance of Dissenters would be at once removed; and that any scheme, however plausible, which proceeds on the principle that the system of the civil establishment of Christianity may need to be improved, but ought not to be abolished, should be met by firm resistance. The language adopted at its last meeting applies to the present case:—'That the Synod renews its testimony against the system of State Churches as unscriptural, opposed to equity, and hurtful to the wellbeing of religion and society; and emphatically condemns all attempts at legislative compromise or alternative on the ques-

tion of disestablishment. And the Synod calls on all who desire a clear issue and settlement to adhere to the simple and unqualified demand for disestablishment and disendowment on impartial principles, as the sole measure which can meet the requirements of the case, or serve the ends of truth and justice.' That for these reasons the committee resolve, should the bill be pressed, to take such steps as may tend to prevent it passing into law, and carry out the policy of disestablishment."

THE DISESTABLISHMENT MOVEMENT.

MEETING OF THE BRISTOL BRANCH.

On Friday night the members of this branch met at tea in the Schoolroom at King-street. Mr. J. F. Norris presided, and Mr. Carvell Williams was present.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening address, referred to the Akenham burial case, and expressed a hope that they would assist the defendant in defraying the costs of the action. The battle had practically been fought in the interests of Dissenters, for they were all anxious for the adoption of the Burials Bill, and if any public agitation could have any effect upon the judgment of the members of the House of Commons, he thought these burial scandals would have the desired effect.

Mr. GRUNDY (agent to the society) then read the committee's report, which gave a *résumé* of what had been done since the last public meeting of the society. A large number of lectures had been delivered in the towns and villages of the district, and many thousands of publications had been distributed.

The report having been adopted,

Rev. GEORGE DUNCAN, of Frome, in a description of the kind of work the society carried on in the villages of the west, gave some humorous details of the opposition he had encountered. The villagers were always thankful for the information imparted, and he believed that when the franchise was extended to the rural districts they should be able to calculate on a large majority of their votes in favour of the principles which the society advocated. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN read a letter from Mr. Lewis Fry, M.P., who had been invited to be present, which stated that he should have been happy to accept the invitation, but as there was important business before the House of Commons he intended remaining in town until Saturday. (Applause.)

The committee and officers for the ensuing year were then chosen; after which

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, who was cordially received, addressed the meeting. He said that two years had passed since last he had the pleasure of meeting the friends of the Liberation Society in Bristol, and those had been years of very great public anxiety. Public opinion had been agitated by the Eastern Question, and before the troubles connected with that question were over they had the Afghan war, and were now at war with Africa. But notwithstanding these untoward circumstances, the questions themselves had had an unexpected effect of a favourable kind in regard to their work. No doubt the absorption of the public mind in these questions had made it impossible for them to hold so many meetings as under other circumstances had been held, yet the very marked difference in the attitude of Nonconformists and of the Established clergy and their supporters in connection with these questions had made a deep impression upon the minds of some of our public men. Other events had helped them. There was a time when the members of the Established Church could not recognise, even in imagination, the possibility of the Church coming to an end; but now they constantly met with some such expression as this: If the Church should be disestablished, it will not be as the result of the action of the Liberation Society, but it will be the result of influences operating within the Church. They need not stay to inquire how much of the credit would be due to the Liberation Society, and how much to other causes; it was enough for them that their opponents now acknowledged that disestablishment was a possibility, and that, over and above the action outside the Church, there were causes in active operation within tending to bring about a termination of the existing system. (Hear, hear.) There was a time when the Established Church was the subject of constant eulogy; now he thought far more severe things were said about the Church of England by its own members than by Nonconformists. (Hear, hear.) The speaker quoted statements to the point made by Archdeacon Denison and Canon Ryle, and proceeded to point out certain anomalies which existed in the Established Church. He urged that changes which were desired by Churchmen themselves could not be effected until the Church was disestablished. Referring to Ritualism and Sacerdotalism, he commented on the disputes which had arisen between Lord Penzance and Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and the Lord Chancellor and Chief Baron Kelly, and next spoke of the *mandamus* which had been issued against the Bishop of Oxford obliging him to institute proceedings against Canon Carter. This was the latest illustration of the strange position which the bishops of the Church occupied; and nothing was better calculated to convince Churchmen of the essential Erastianism of the institution than this. (Hear, hear.) Proceeding to the work of the Liberation Society, Mr. Williams said he thought it would be admitted that they had used

their opportunities, and he expressed himself gratified at what had been done in the West of England. He also adverted to the burials question, and predicted the ultimate success of the movement. (Applause.)

The Rev. P. RUTHERFORD (Presbyterian) moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Williams for his address, which he described as being as admirable for its clear arrangement as it was valuable for the information it contained. Referring to the disestablishment of the Scottish Church, on which Mr. Williams had touched, the speaker supplied some interesting additional facts.

Mr. LEWIS WATERMAN having seconded the motion, it was carried, and the chairman was also heartily thanked for presiding. In acknowledging the vote, he said he hoped to do all he could in carrying forward this great and righteous and, as he thought, godly movement. (Applause.)

MR. FISHER IN THE SOUTH.

Mr. Fisher made a short tour through Hampshire last week. On Monday evening, as reported in the *Winchester Observer*, he lectured in the Sessions Hall of that city. Mr. Town Councillor J. Jones presided, supported by the Rev. G. F. Cullen, Congregational minister. The room was well filled by a sympathetic audience. At the close of the lecture discussion was invited, and the challenge was accepted by Mr. J. Williams Ashman from a Churchman's point of view. Mr. Fisher having replied, the proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman for his impartial conduct in the debate, on the motion of Mr. Ashman, seconded by Mr. Fisher. This was the most successful Liberation meeting ever held at Winchester.

PORTSEA.—On Tuesday, according to the *Hampshire Post*, a numerous attended meeting, convened by the Portsmouth branch of the Liberation Society, was held at the Beneficial Society's Hall, Portsea, when a lecture was delivered by Mr. Fisher. Mr. W. Ward presided, and was supported by the Revs. H. Kitching, J. Ellis, and A. Hancock, and Mr. Blessley. The chairman said the subject was one of special interest. They had had disestablishment and disendowment in Ireland; but he hoped that when they had the same in England, it would be with fairer terms to the general public than the Irish had received. As a matter of fact, a large amount of money taken from the revenue of the Established Church of Ireland had gone in a different direction to that which was intended. It was even hinted that a proposition was about to be made in Parliament for the endowment of a Roman Catholic College in Ireland; while at the same time the Protestants, not satisfied with the plunder obtained from the disestablishment, were going to claim a part of the balance in hand for the endowment of a Protestant College. If disestablishment were to take place in England, it must be done upon purely just principles. They were quite willing and desired to give to the English Church whatever of right belonged to it; but that which came from the State belonged to the nation, and should be devoted to purely unsectarian purposes. Referring to the burial case, "*Drury v. Wilson*," he said that the fact of a clergyman being able to step in, as Mr. Drury did, and interfere with the last rites which they wished to bestow on their deceased friends, was a disgrace to the civilisation of the nineteenth century, and should not be tolerated. He was rather inclined to think that their work was being done inside as well as outside the Church, and that there was a foe within her own ranks which was undermining her constitution, and would perhaps do more in compassing her downfall than anything the Dissenters were doing. (Applause.) Mr. Fisher's lecture is reported at some length in the journal referred to. At the close the chairman stated that an impartial hearing would be given to anyone who might wish to speak on the subject. Someone in the body of the hall complained that the opposite side had not been allowed to have tickets. The chairman said that if they knew how to conduct themselves as gentlemen, the committee would not have been obliged to take the step they had. Mr. Scroggins said he knew of his own knowledge that a party of men had endeavoured to procure tickets for the express purpose of upsetting the meeting. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Blessley and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Hancock, was then accorded to the lecturer, who, in acknowledging the compliment, said he preferred an open meeting, but when they were likely to have their meeting upset by unmitigated ruffianism and scoundrelism as had been exhibited at former meetings, they felt obliged to issue tickets in order to protect their friends. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

ANDOVER.—The *Andover Advertiser* reports a lecture given by Mr. Fisher on Wednesday. Mr. Fisher had, it is stated, a good audience. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. Hasler; the Revs. J. E. M. Edwards and R. Taylor and Mr. Cooke were on the platform. The chairman made a brief but comprehensive address on the practical importance of the subject, which was "Disestablishment in Ireland; an Argument and a Warning." At the close he referred to the new Irish Prayer-book, saying that another advantage was the revision of the Prayer-book. There was such a thing as Ritualism, which some people were in the habit of looking upon simply as a matter of dress and ceremony; but it was a question of sacerdotalism which would probably lead to a repetition of the Reformation, and scenes would be enacted which they were accustomed to associate with the

dark ages. If a Ritualist was taxed about his practices he invariably referred to the Prayer-book, but when the Church was liberated in Ireland everything was immediately removed from the Prayer-book which gave colour to such things. The eastward position could not be assumed, the part relating to absolution at the visitation of the sick was taken out altogether, the burial service was altered, the marriage service was modified, and other alterations had been made. On the whole, disestablishment had been a blessing to Ireland, and though there had necessarily been individual cases of hardship, they should not be led away by those, but deal with the question broadly. If they had any fears or misgivings he asked them to be reassured. He had told them of the unfavourable circumstances which had to be contended with and yet those were the results; then what might they not expect in England? Instead of disestablishment being fraught with evil it had been fraught with the greatest blessings, and the time would undoubtedly come when their opponents would say they (the Liberationists) had been their best friends, and had conferred on them and their posterity the blessings which they enjoyed. (Loud applause.)

A vote of thanks to Mr. Fisher, proposed by Mr. Coote and seconded from the body of the hall by Mr. Joseph Davison, who was in favour of disestablishment, concluded the meeting.

MR. McDUGALL AT HEYWOOD.

On Thursday the Rev. J. McDougall, of Darwen, lectured in the Reform Club, Mr. G. N. Hodgkinson presiding. The lecturer, says the *Heywood Advertiser*, was attentively listened to and heartily cheered. We make some extracts. First as to a "Broad Church indeed."

Every clergyman is governed by law in the receipt and disbursement of the money of the parish or benefice in which he works; but, indeed, he is governed by law in every conceivable way. We have only to inquire into the history of a clergyman to discover this; the law fixes the age at which he can be ordained; the law lays down his course of preparation and indicates his official qualifications; the law compels him to give his assent to definite articles of faith, and to solemn acknowledgment of the truth of what is contained in the Book of Common Prayer; the law lays down every particular in his career—in the stages of presentation, installation, and induction; and the law, by Acts of Parliament (almost innumerable), regulates his conduct to the last moment of his life as an ecclesiastical officer of the State. I may just state, in passing, that the "Book of Church Law" gives the following as the number of ecclesiastical statutes passed since 1216 to 1870:—

1216 to 1530, about 1 per year.	314
1530 to 1760, " 24 "	575
1760 to 1820, " 10 "	600
1820 to 1870, " 25 "	1225
Making a total of 2,714 statutes in 654 years.	

Need I add that as soon as a clergyman is legally settled in his parish, he is entirely independent of his parishioners? Need I say that his congregation has no legal power over him? Nay, that those other State officers called churchwardens have none? The fact comes out more and more clearly as we inquire that he is a State officer of the most real kind, not the minister of any congregation with a voice in his appointment or dismissal, therefore not the "servant" of such a congregation. He is the parish priest, and his services are due to all parishioners, whether Churchmen or Dissenters, Jews or infidels, alike.

Next as to the process of disendowment—

After quoting the opinion of Lord Derby that the State had a perfect right to divert endowments from one purpose to another, and referring to the precedent made by the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, the lecturer said that what the nation did for Ireland it might do for England and Scotland. It would be well that the long and bitter disputes about the property question should end, and that the whole future discussion should centre upon a mode of disendowment which should be at once reasonable and equitable, while truly liberal—yes, even generous—to the clergy and laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The lecturer proceeded to discuss various methods of disendowment, more particularly as regarded it being done by a gradual process or at a fixed date. He expressed the opinion that the latter course would be the wisest to adopt. The lecturer continued: The question will naturally be asked, "What of the buildings?" In reply to it, I quote a writer whose views I very willingly endorse. "Church buildings, for the most part, are strictly parochial edifices. The law has provided that they shall be so, just as the incumbents are parish priests. Originally, the buildings may have been built by private families, but, until very recently, they have been repaired and maintained by public rates—sometimes, too, by funds provided by Parliament. Within certain limits, and under certain legal restrictions, they can be dealt with by parishioners, in vestry assembled, according to their will. There is no sufficient reason why this tenure should be disturbed. The buildings which are now the property of the ratepayers of a parish may very well remain so, absolutely and finally, to be made use of as the majority, in vestry assembled, may determine to be most suitable to the wants of the inhabitants. There need be no fear that these buildings would be perverted from their customary religious uses." I can conceive of no sufficient number of persons desiring so to pervert them. Here, however, come exceptions—exceptions relating not merely to church buildings but to clerical incomes. Many beautiful ecclesiastical structures in our day have been erected either by the voluntary subscriptions of those who are accommodated in them or by individual generosity. It is true—I hope I have shown how true it is—that they have been made part of a national system. But it may be freely allowed that such buildings as I now refer to stand in a different position to the older buildings, and that claims of equity rather than that of constitutional law ought to decide their disposal under any scheme of disendowment. Such claims must be carefully and even tenderly met. To state the law as we interpret it is not to ask for its

enforcement "all round." And for this we do not ask. And in saying so, I only repeat once more the very language of all really trustworthy Liberationists, from Mr. Edward Miall's earliest utterances onwards. It is not asked that Parliament shall dispose of ecclesiastical property without a generous consideration of its present users. On the contrary, Liberationists will abide by all the declarations which they have made on this point, and will ask that disendowment shall take place handsomely in respect of every clergyman now in office, and most charitably in respect of those who accept their ministrations. May I venture to hope that after these explanations, imperfect as I feel them to be, the process of disendowment will not appear so painful or so offensive as it has been represented. For what is its reality? It is simply the withdrawal by the State of property and funds from ecclesiastical objects and officers. Liberationists will ask that the State shall not continue to appoint, or permit the appointment of, successors to such officers. When State appointment shall cease, State-pay will cease, and then the new Free Protestant Episcopal body will enter upon its great Christian work unburdened by Acts of Parliament, unfettered by unnatural restrictions of State-craft and State policy, undegraded by the manipulation and intrigue of contending leaders of political parties.

MR. BROWNE IN LANCASHIRE.

BARROW.—The *Barrow Times* reports a lecture delivered by Mr. Browne in the Town Hall, the Rev. E. Short presiding. The chairman, in opening the meeting, said that sometimes the question was asked if they disestablished the Church what were they going to put in its place. The question was certainly a very foolish one, for if the Church was disestablished it would be simply left where it was. He thought some people forgot when they talked about disestablishment that there was a disestablished Church—he referred to the Church of Ireland—and that the Irish Church was now far more vigorous and was doing a greater and nobler work than it had ever done. Mr. Browne dealt with great effect upon the property question. There were some rather lively proceedings towards the close caused by some disorderly questioning, but the votes of thanks were heartily passed.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. Browne lectured on Wednesday evening to the members of the Mutual Improvement Society in the schoolroom of the Primitive Methodists, Rosamond-street. The Rev. R. Crewdson presided, and spoke heartily in favour of Liberation principles. Mr. Browne's lecture, on "Our Parliamentary Church," was well received, and a cordial vote of thanks was given him at the close.

TARPORLEY.—Dr. Hickman presided at a well-attended meeting in the Town Hall of Tarporley, on Thursday last. The chairman spoke strongly on the Romanising tendencies of the Establishment, and on the coercive influences that were employed in support of the Establishment. Mr. Browne examined and refuted many of the "Arguments of Church Defenders." The meeting keenly appreciated the statements of the lecturer, the more so because many of them illustrated transactions on behalf of the Established Church to which residents in Tarporley were not strangers. The usual votes of thanks closed the meeting.

OTHER MEETINGS.

MEXBRO'.—Mr. Percy Rawson lectured on Monday evening of last week on "The Church of England and its Endowments." The *Rotherham Advertiser* states that there was a good attendance, and on the platform were Messrs. I. Watson (chairman), C. Scorch, Fulford, the Rev. T. J. Leslie, and others. The chairman said it was no disrespect to the lecturer to introduce him as an agitator, because to the action of such men England owed all the blessings she now enjoyed, which never would have been conceded but for men like Mr. Rawson. (Hear, hear.) To be an agitator in a good and righteous cause was no dishonour. (Cheers.) Mr. Rawson's lecture abounded with information and was heartily received. The Rev. T. J. Leslie moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Rawson. He said when earnest-minded laymen took up these questions and carried them on in a spirit of self-denial and patriotism, they were not open to the charge sometimes made against Nonconformist ministers of being actuated by a spirit of envy. (Cheers.) He was sure that they had heard that night would be most useful in forming their judgment upon this important question. (Cheers.) Mr. C. Scorch seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, as was also a similar vote to the chairman.

WEST VALE, YORKS.—The Rev. John Myers lectured here on Tuesday evening, the Rev. J. T. Roberts presiding over a numerous audience. The lecturer dealt with the reasons for disestablishment, and was frequently applauded. Mr. John Andrew, of Leeds, afterwards spoke. The *Hull and York Courier* gives a good report of the meeting.

SILVERDALE, STAFFORDSHIRE.—The *Staffordshire Sentinel* gives a notice of the last of a series of meetings held here in connection with the Liberal Association last Wednesday, when the Rev. T. Cocker, of Stoke, lectured on "Disestablishment and Disendowment." The Rev. R. G. Wilson presided. A large number were present, who accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

STOWBRIDGE.—Mr. Lummis lectured here on the 11th of March, his subject being "The Church and Nonconformity." Mr. Bear presided.

TERRINGTON.—The same lecture was delivered here on the 12th, Mr. Studd presiding. Mr. Lock and Mr. Wharfe spoke to a vote of thanks, and urged the lecturer to renew his visit.

WALPOLE (HIGH).—Mr. Lummis had a meeting here on the 13th, Mr. Harold presiding.

PAVENBY, NEAR LINCOLN.—Mr. Grayson presided over a good meeting here on the 17th.

TETFORD, NEAR HORNCASTLE.—A good meeting was convened here on Thursday night, when the Primitive Methodist Chapel was well filled by an appreciative audience to hear Mr. Lummis. Mr. Walford presided. Questions were asked at the close and were satisfactorily answered.

TORRINGTON, NORTH LINCOLN.—A meeting of unusual interest and novelty was held here on Friday evening last, when the parish schoolroom was occupied by an audience composed of Churchmen and Dissenters, under the presidency of the rector, the Rev. T. W. Mossman, B.A., to hear a lecture on disestablishment from the Rev. J. H. Lummis, of Wisbeach. The chairman in an interesting address avowed his hearty sympathy with the Liberation Society, and spoke of the meeting as an experiment intended to test the practicability of the clergy—like-minded with himself—co-operating with the Liberation Society in its aggressive work. He besought earnest attention to the lecturer's remarks, and should invite discussion at the close of the lecture. The Rev. J. H. Lummis then delivered his lecture, his subject being "The Gains of Disestablishment." He urged that the policy of the Liberation Society would free the nation from a national injustice, inconvenience, source of discord and responsibility, and, quoting Canon Ryle, urged that it would be a copious fountain of benefit to the Church herself—the reform of which could only come through disestablishment. Discussion being invited, the Rev. Mr. Smith, of Sotby, spoke of the pleasure with which he had heard the lecture, endorsing, as he did, all its sentiments. His difficulty, however, was with the disendowment scheme, upon which he desired information. The lecturer having replied to Mr. Smith's queries, a cordial vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Cotton, and supported by the rector, who expressed his high satisfaction with the experiment, was passed to the lecturer, and the meeting was brought to a close, it being more than probable that in this North Lincolnshire parish a new departure has been made to the work of the Liberation Society.

TABOR, NEAR ABERYSTWYTH.—The Rev. R. Morris lectured on March 11, Mr. W. Edwards in the chair. There were a good number of electors present, who paid the greatest attention and gave the most cordial reception to the lecturer.

ECCLESIASTICAL MISCELLANY.

THE AKENHAM CASE.—We are glad to call attention to the advertisement relating to the case of Drury v. Wilson, which appears elsewhere, and hope that the appeal will be promptly, as well as liberally, responded to. It will be seen that influential committees have been formed both in the Eastern Counties and in London; both Churchmen and Dissenters uniting in this expression of sympathy with the defendant. A good beginning has also been made with the subscription list.

The Leicester Town Council, after a long debate, have rejected the proposal to open the Free Public Library on Sunday by 28 to 20 votes.

The Duke of Northumberland has promised £10,000 and the Bishop-Elect of Durham £3,000 towards the foundation of the Bishopric of Newcastle.

THE IRISH CHURCH CURATES.—At an influential meeting held in Cavan of the clergy and laity of the diocese of Kilmore, and presided over by the bishop, it has been resolved that a deputation should wait upon Lord Beaconsfield and present a memorial setting forth the claims of the minor incumbents and curates of the Irish Church to compensation from the Surplus Church Fund.

A BISHOP FOR EAST LONDON.—The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* understands that the frequently-expressed wish for the appointment of an additional bishop for the eastern division of the diocese of London is at last likely to be gratified, and that Canon Walsham How will in all probability be selected for the post. Canon How is a moderate High Churchman.

A DECIDED REBUFF.—A meeting of heritors and feuars of Old Machar, called on Wednesday to consider the propriety of sanctioning certain improvements in the Cathedral, Old Aberdeen, declined to make them, refused to agree off-hand to an extension of the churchyard, and (despite strenuous opposition) discharged the committee of management, and nominated another having a preponderance of Dissenting members.

DR. VAUGHAN, THE MASTER OF THE TEMPLE, on learning the result of the clerical meeting recently held in Bangor, condemning his appointment as Dean of Llandaff, at once placed his resignation in the hands of the bishop. On receiving an assurance, however, that the clergy in the diocese were almost unanimous in his favour, Dr. Vaughan agreed to accept the appointment, and will now very shortly be installed as Dean of Llandaff.

ALLEGED RITUALISM AT ST. PAUL'S.—The Secretary of the "Working Men's Protestant League" has sent a letter to the Dean of St. Paul's asking him to prevent a repetition of the "Three Hours Service" at the cathedral on Good Friday, against which the League protested last year. Mr. McClure asserts that the "service is not authorised by the standards of the Church of England, and is idolatrous and superstitious in its tendencies and objects, and fitted to familiarise the mind with those blasphemous practices of the

Church of Rome against which the Thirty-nine Articles of our Church strongly protest."

DISSENT IN RUSSIA.—We (*Globe*) are informed that the Russian Synod has presented a petition to the Czar, calling his attention to the "alarming" increase of Dissent in South Russia, and particularly of the Protestant Evangelical sects. One of the latter, the Stundists, to the persecution of which we have more than once called attention in our columns, has recently asked permission to hold a congress at Mariopol this spring, 150 delegates from various districts expressing themselves in readiness to attend it. The decision of the Government has not yet been announced, but it is believed the request will be refused.

PÈRE HYACINTHE.—M. Loyson, better known as Père Hyacinthe, has just brought out a brochure setting forth the doctrines of the New Catholic persuasion. The little work is divided into five parts, comprising—first, rejection of papal infallibility; second, election of bishops by the clergy and their congregations; third, celebration of the liturgical offices and reading of the Bible in the national tongue; fourth, marriage allowed to priests; and, fifth, liberty and morality of confession. M. Loyson's new church, in the Rue Rochecouart, continues to be well frequented—so much so, indeed, that on Sundays there is not accommodation for all who are desirous of obtaining admission.

THE BRIGHTON AQUARIUM AND THE SUNDAY QUESTION.—Judgment was delivered in the Court of Appeal on Saturday in the case of *Girdlestone v. the Brighton Aquarium Company*, which was an action brought against the company to recover a penalty of 200*l.* for opening the Aquarium on Sundays. Mr. Rolfe, at the request of the defendants, issued a writ against them for penalties on the understanding that he would not enforce execution. Subsequently Mr. Girdlestone instituted an action against the company, who pleaded that the penalties incurred had already been inflicted upon them at the suit of Mr. Rolfe. The jury, however, found that this transaction showed covin and collusion, and their verdict was for the plaintiff. A rule nisi for a new trial was obtained, but it was discharged by the Exchequer Division. From this judgment the defendants now appealed. Their appeal was dismissed with costs.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY have, through their president, the Earl of Shaftesbury, presented to the Duke of Connaught a Bible, accompanied with the following address:—To His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K.G., &c.,—We, the President and Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, ask permission to offer to your Royal Highness our respectful congratulations on your approaching marriage with Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise Marguerite of Prussia. Loyalty to our gracious Queen gives a deep interest to all that concerns the welfare of each member of the Royal Family, and believing as we do that the only source of all true happiness is revealed in the Word of God, we venture to ask your accepting the accompanying Bible, praying that its precepts may be your guide and its promises your comfort, and that He of whom it testifies may be the light and the joy of your future home.—Signed on behalf of the committee, Shaftesbury, President; Charles Jackson, and S. B. Bergne, Secretaries."

LECTURES ON NONCONFORMITY AT HALIFAX.—A course of lectures on Nonconformity is being delivered in the Mechanics' Hall, Halifax, on Thursday evenings. The first, on "John Wycliffe, and the Dawn of the Reformation" was by Dr. Mellor, on January 3rd. There were two lectures last month—one by the Rev. W. J. Townsend, his subject being "Bishop Hooper; the First Nonconformist"—the second on "Oliver Cromwell and Religious Liberty," by the Rev. R. Bruce, M.A. On the 6th of March the Rev. Bryan Dale, M.A., discoursed on "Oliver Haywood and the Act of Uniformity," and last Thursday the Rev. T. Michael was the lecturer, his topic being "The Book of Common Prayer: its History and Contents." On this occasion the chair was taken by Alderman Smith, and there was a crowded attendance. Mr. Michael's lecture, which was received with much favour, was comprehensive, pointed, and suggestive, and was greeted with much applause. A cordial vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by the Rev. J. R. Bailey, seconded by the Rev. M. Perry, and heartily adopted. The last lecture of the course will be delivered by Mr. J. Carvell Williams to-morrow week, his subject being "The Pilgrim Fathers—and their Children."

DR. NEWMAN.—The Irish Roman Catholic members have resolved to present an address of congratulation to Dr. Newman, upon his receiving a cardinal's hat. In reply to an address from Irish residents in London, Dr. Newman, writing to Mr. Sullivan, M.P., expresses his great gratification, and adds:—"It is the simple truth that when I was in Ireland I wished to serve faithfully her generous people, but I had little means of doing anything which deserves so high a compliment as you send me, though it rejoices me as much as it surprises me." To an address from the Catholic clergy of Birmingham, Dr. Newman replies:—"The genuine kindness which has led to your addressing me in Chapter on the festival of St. Chad, now that I am expecting the greatest event of my life, is but a fresh instance of the warm and welcome sympathy which you and your predecessors and the clergy of Birmingham and of the diocese have shown me heretofore on such various occasions and so opportunely. Never was a man supported and sustained more generously and effectively than

I have been in the time of need, and now when my course is nearly run you end as you began some thirty years ago, bringing up before me the memories of the past and renewing my gratitude for old and recent acts of friendliness from you and from others who have gone to their reward."

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD AND THE CLEWER RITUAL JUDGMENT.—The *Guardian* "is informed that the Bishop of Oxford has decided to appeal against the recent judgment obtained against him in the Court of Queen's Bench, on the suit for mandamus preferred by Dr. Julius, of Clewer, and that Canon Carter also proposes to appear by counsel on the appeal." The *Record* adds:—

We have reason to believe that the *Guardian's* information is at all events premature, and that the appeal to the higher tribunals against the judgment of the Lord Chief Justice and the Court of Queen's Bench depends on the success of a previous *pecuniary* appeal to those of the Bench of Bishops who concur in Bishop Mackarness's demand for the unfettered discretion of the bishops in permitting or restraining the rights of the laity in ecclesiastical prosecutions. It is but only reasonable that those prelates who have encouraged Bishop Mackarness to try this question should contribute to his costs, which are and must be considerable. But we do not fear the result of any appeal to the higher tribunals. It is beyond dispute that the old law, as declared by Lord Stowell and other great ecclesiastical judges, did not require the *consent* of a prelate to any prosecution. Of course the Archbishop of Canterbury's authority in a matter of law cannot be of any weight; but he simply stated a recognised fact when he wrote, in his letter to the Wolverhampton churchwardens, that such consent "was unknown to the old law."

AURICULAR CONFESSION.—This subject has lately been exciting some attention in the diocese of Salisbury in consequence of certain Ritualist practices at special missions held in the parish of Bothenhampton, in Dorset. Mrs. Gundry, of "The Hyde," Bridport, has sent a letter to the bishop enclosing a book circulated by the rector of Bothenhampton. His lordship replied that he disapproved of the book, but at the same time "the legitimate use of the ordinance of confession and absolution is a real part of the instruction of the Christian Church, and most precious and useful in a generation such as that in which we live." Mrs. Gundry expresses dissatisfaction with the reply, and says Mr. Towne has circulated in the parish pamphlets which invite young persons of both sexes to private auricular confession to the priest alone, the penitent being admonished not to reveal to anyone what has passed between the priest and himself or herself. The bishop further replies to the lady, and says:—"I cannot agree in thinking that the ordinance of confession is in the Prayer-book confined to sick people, or that it is proper that a third party should be present when it is used." Mrs. Gundry is astonished at the bishop, and tells him that if the confessional be reintroduced into England those who connive at it will be responsible for inflicting untold misery on our households and children's children.

A NICE LEGAL POINT.—In the Chancery Division on Friday, the case of *Hodgson v. Halford* was heard, which raised the question whether a testatrix could, in exercising a power of appointment, provide that any object of the power who changed his religion should forfeit his share in the appointed property. Mrs. Rosy Lyon, who died in October, 1845, by her will left certain property upon trust for her daughter, Esther Jacobs, for her life, and after her death for all or any of the children of Esther Jacobs as she should by will appoint. In 1874 Esther Jacobs, being then a widow, made a will, in which she exercised the power of appointment given to her by the will of Mrs. Lyon, and directed that if any son or daughter of hers should marry a person who did not profess the Jewish religion, or should marry a person not born a Jew or Jewess, or should forsake the Jewish religion and adopt the Christian or any other religion, that son or daughter should absolutely forfeit and lose all share in the property in question, or in any other property left by the testatrix. Mrs. Jacobs made a codicil to her will in July, 1876, and died in September, 1876. During the lifetime of Esther Jacobs, Joseph Lyon Jacobs, a beneficiary under the codicil to her will, married a Christian, and since the death of Esther Jacobs Mrs. Hodgson, another beneficiary under her will, had married a member of the Church of England. The case was brought before the court for the purpose of having the rights of all parties decided. Vice-Chancellor Hall held that Mrs. Hodgson, who married after Esther Jacobs's death, had not incurred any forfeiture; but that Joseph Lyon Jacobs, who had married previously to such death, had incurred a forfeiture as to the property passing under the appointment and will. This forfeiture did not, however, extend to any property he took under the codicil, to which no condition was attached.

CHURCH RATES IN PADDINGTON.—At a numerously attended meeting of St. Mary, Paddington, last week, the Rev. J. W. Buckley, incumbent of St. James's, proposed a series of resolutions, of which he had given notice, to call upon the Burial Board to appropriate the burial fees derivable from interments in the new parochial cemetery at Willesden to the repairs of St. James's parish church and Divine service therein, and that till after full provision is made for those objects no part of such fees be paid to the overseers in aid of the rates. He contended that, in paying as they did some 2,500*l.* a year in aid of the rates, the Burial Board were depriving the vicar of at least some 300*l.* or 400*l.* a year, which was clearly his right, as being derived from ecclesiastical services—the burial of the dead. Sir Charles Locock, the junior church-

warden, combated the statements of Mr. Buckley, and said that although the income for pew rents was originally fixed at 1,000*l.*, they now realised 1,238*l.*, and the 238*l.* was appropriated to the repairs of the church, but, although they last year cost 450*l.*, there was no difficulty in raising the difference, which was supplied by the congregation. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Ellis said during the last three years the Nonconformist portion of the new cemetery had contributed to the amount received for burials 3,337*l.*, and if such a proposal as that made by Mr. Buckley were carried, it would be looked upon in no other light than as the reimposition of a Church-rate. (Hear, hear.) The ground had been purchased with the ratepayers' money—persons of all shades and religions—and they had no right to appropriate the returns in any other way than for the benefit of the rates. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Mount, as a Nonconformist, expressed his regret at finding a minister of the Church endeavouring to raise Church-rates by a side wind like this out of burial fees contributed by all denominations. (Hear, hear.) Eventually the resolutions were rejected by a large majority.

THE VALUATION BILL.—The Valuation Bill, which has once more been brought in, and read a second time, exempts from rating so much of the tithe as may be applied to the payment of a curate's salary. The incumbent is to be relieved of a portion of his rates, and the burden is to fall upon the general body of ratepayers, Churchmen and Dissenters, Jews and Atheists. This is a clear case of re-endowment. The amount in question is not large, but this does not affect the question. £50,000 or £50,000,000—the principle is the same. During the Church-rate agitation, men went to prison rather than be compelled to pay a sixpence towards the soap for the incumbents' surplice. It is unjust to force a Dissenter or a Catholic to contribute the ghost of the tithe of a farthing towards any form of religious worship. The nation is surely, if slowly, gravitating towards the day of complete Disendowment, and any attempt to retrograde towards an injustice which the most rabid Tory would not dare to propose on a larger scale must be steadfastly opposed. Let curates be multiplied as the stars of heaven, but let those who rejoice in their radiance maintain the brightness at their own cost. What is the paltry £50,000 in question to the wealth of the richest church in Christendom? It is not enough to endow a single bishopric. Why cannot a little of the surplus wealth which is poured into new sees be diverted into the empty bread-baskets of the starving curates? It is to be hoped that when this Valuation Bill comes again before the House the friends of religious equality will be on their guard. Slippery little schemes of this kind are apt to glide through Parliament without notice. Let constituents call the attention of their members to the measure, and let some vigorous Liberal pounce upon the obnoxious little reptile, and drag it to the light. Perchance the light will kill it.—*Bradford Observer.*

Correspondence.

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR,—I was very glad to read Mr. Sonley Johnstone's letter in last Wednesday's *Nonconformist*.

I long for some way to be devised whereby those English men and women who utterly abhor the principles on which our unhappy country is, at present, misgoverned, and who equally detest the iniquitous practices resulting from them, could, at least, record their stern and indignant protest against both. It would be a relief to many who have long been mourning over national sins, and consequent degradation.

Pray allow another "obscure voice" to be heard through the columns of your paper, and oblige

Yours very truly,

AN ENGLISHWOMAN.

March 21, 1879.

LORD BEACONSFIELD.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—I, in common with hundreds of your subscribers, have just read with great gratitude the scathing words of your reviewer directed against the unprincipled and untruthful adventurer who is at present the head and the soul of Her Majesty's Government.

I have long thought that one of the greatest services that could be rendered to the cause of political truth and national righteousness would be the publication in a cheap form of all the more important and characteristic speeches delivered by Benjamin Disraeli from the very beginning of his Parliamentary life. I do not mean the publication of these speeches after being "doctored" by their author; but taken direct from the pages of "Hansard." Such a book would need but the briefest of connecting links and the shortest of explanatory notes.

Some of the speeches spoken at different times

might be placed together, e.g., those on Parliamentary Reform, *con* and *pro*; those on the Crimean war delivered in Opposition; and those on the Russo-Turkish war delivered against the Opposition, &c.

If anything would open the eyes of the people—though very many seem most unwilling to resort to the oculists—surely the collocation of such a long series of discrepancies, hypocrisies, unfairness, foul invectives, in all of which is revealed the lowest depth of political untruthfulness and want of moral principle, would go far towards the accomplishment of so desirable an end. "Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant."

Faithfully yours,

ELVERY DOTHIE.

Kipping Parsonage, Thornton, Bradford.

A MEMORIAL TO THE POET COWPER.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—A short time since a writer in the *Daily News* stated that "Cowper apparently has no monument except a memorial window at Berkhamstead," and, in reference to the admirers of the poet raising a church to his memory at Olney, "that a church is the safest sort of monument he could have." The next day in a letter to that paper I stated that "several years ago the Mechanics' Institute, including the leading people of Berkhamstead, had agreed to erect in Berkhamstead, the place of Cowper's birth, a fitting memorial to his honour, and subscribed funds thereto, the late Mr. Wm. Longman and the late rector being warmly interested in the movement; but shortly afterwards a religious civil war over Church-rates 'broke out,' and sundered for ever the leading spirits engaged in so worthy an object." Subsequently a memorial window was placed in the church, and a portrait of the poet in the reading-room of the Institute. Both these, though perhaps appropriate, were insufficient as memorials of Cowper in the place of his birth. Both the cause and the result are sufficiently sad.

The Olney proposal, however, is not received with favour in some quarters, on account of the church to be erected being a Congregational instead of an Episcopal church, which at first it was understood by some to be. The Independents of Dereham were complained of for using the good name of Cowper to assist them in raising to his memory there a church bearing the poet's name.

The *South Bucks Free Press*, a well-conducted Liberal paper, claiming the poet as "the gentle Buckinghamshire bard," doubts whether the proposal that the memorial taking the shape of a Congregational church at Olney would be a wise step, saying that "of all corroding jealousies the jealousy of sectarianism is the easiest to raise and the hardest to lay." The *Globe* also informs its readers that "the proposed building is no 'church' at all, in the usual sense of the word, but an Independent 'chapel,' and deprecates the substitution of the word 'church' by the Nonconformists for 'chapel.'"

That Nonconformists see so much to admire in the poet Cowper, although he was not one of them, seems to be resented, and that they should call their places of worship churches is a further aggravation.

As a means of inducing religious equality, if for no other reason, it would seem to be advisable that Nonconformists should adopt more generally the word church instead of chapel to designate their places of worship—also, though perhaps the suggestion is unnecessary, that they should express their admiration of all the Churchmen at all worthy of it, like Cowper, is also for the same reason worthy of being adopted.

Yours faithfully,

G. LOOSLEY.

Berkhamstead, March 24, 1879.

PARALYSED CHILDREN.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I beg to be allowed to plead in your columns the cause of our hospital, which possesses a special ward for paralysed children, frequently mere infants whose rescue from a life of misery was one of the main objects of its establishment.

That the hospital is appreciated is shown by the cots being constantly filled, and patients waiting admission, and this notwithstanding the fact that, except in the case of the very poor, a small weekly sum varying with the means of the applicant is required for admission.

We have also a large out-patient department for adults, many of whom are in great poverty, and we shall be obliged to restrict our good work unless speedy help is forthcoming, while we feel that the hospital has only to be more widely known in order to receive the help it needs; and we shall welcome any visitors who come to inspect it.

We are also about to hold a bazaar in May, under the patronage of H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, and we shall thankfully receive the names of ladies willing to help us in our good work. Any contributions sent to me, or to Colonel Lake, at the hospital, will be gratefully acknowledged.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

AMY WAKEFIELD,

Hon. Sec. of the Ladies' Committee.

The West End Hospital for Paralysis, Epilepsy, and Nervous Diseases, Welbeck-street, W.

AMERICAN JOTTINGS.

The action of President Hayes in placing his veto on the Anti-Chinese Immigration Bill has been known in England for a week or two by means of the telegraph, but the last mail brings files of newspapers showing that the action is strongly approved by all the religious journals. A moribund Congress signalled its last hours by attempting to construct a wall around the United States for the exclusion of the Chinese. It is a noteworthy circumstance that the hostility to them comes mainly from the Irish immigrants on the ground that the presence of Chinamen will reduce wages. It is not many years since precisely the same argument was urged by native American labourers against Irish immigration, and with just as much propriety. In this case the President exercised what is known as "the pocket veto"; that is, he simply kept the bill when sent for his approval, and as the late Congress expired from effluxion of time there was no opportunity of passing the measure in spite of him. It will come up again before the new Congress in its present special session, but as there are many new members it is thought they will not adopt the measure.

New York has been deprived of one of the scandals which have been dished up for its delectation at intervals for more than a year. The Vanderbilt will case has suddenly collapsed; a compromise having been made. It is said that evidence was to be offered, the knowledge of which induced Mr. H. Vanderbilt to come to terms, and that his brother and sister, who contested the probate, are to receive a million dollars each and their costs. These must be enormous, and as quite an array of the most talented and expensive counsel was engaged on both sides. But those who find pleasure and mental aliment in such matters may console themselves in the near prospect of another exposure. The report of the committee of the Brooklyn Presbytery in regard to the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, D.D., was made on March 10, recommending that he be tried upon charges of deceit and falsehood in several particulars, notably in statements as to his withdrawal from the *Christian at Work*, and as to the collection of subscriptions for the church debt. The report was adopted, but the trial will be proceeded with at once; and it is not improbable that a change in denominational relations on the part of Dr. Talmage may frustrate his enemies.

Those who love plain speaking, and who are sometimes annoyed by the process of sugar-coating unpleasant things which is carried on (especially in such matters as giving characters to untrustworthy servants, and in dismissing disagreeable members to other churches), may approve the charming frankness of the following letter of dismissal recently given, according to the *New York Independent*, to a member who was leaving one branch of the Methodist Church for another:—

G. C., the bearer, has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church on this circuit for about two years; but now withdraws from our communion to join another. A good share of the time he has been with us he has been disaffected and made trouble. It seems impossible to preach the truth without offending him. I sincerely hope that in his new church relations he may become a Christian and learn to love the truth. I earnestly recommend him to the prayers and sympathy of the brethren of the Methodist Protestant Church. Do him all the good you can, brethren, for I really fear he will lose his soul. I am quite sure there is no one like him in Heaven. I hope he may become a different man before he dies.—J. E. W., preacher in charge. November 29, 1878. Matt. xxvi. 14—16. M. 25. 40.

The above is a specimen of the "smart" things which our cousins across the Atlantic know so well how to say and write. Here is another from the *Boston Congregationalist*:—"We know of a church which, instead of putting up a clock in its audience-room, has a cheap but serviceable watch, which lies in a hollow made for it on the pulpit desk, where the preacher cannot help seeing it, although it is not visible to his hearers. Results, a saving of money, short sermons, and no turning round on the part of the audience." Yet another from the *Christian Union*:—"The underlying cause of poor prayer-meetings, is that the pastor has nothing in his head and the people have nothing in their hearts." One more from the *Sunday School Times*:—"If a man unusually brilliant is available as a teacher or preacher, his brilliancy is often accepted as presumptive evidence that he is a holy man. If Balaam were now on earth, he could probably find a prompt settlement with a prominent church." That Mr. Beecher should adopt a similar style at times is not surprising, for he is known to be a master of satire as well as of humour and pathos. He thus announces a church fair to be held for the benefit of the Bethel Mission of Plymouth Church:—

There will be no gambling, latent or obvious, and no undue solicitation. The lips of beauty can be better employed than in persuading unwilling people to buy what they don't want. There will be no overcharging, and no cheating in making change. Gambling, lying, and cheating are worse in a church fair than anywhere else. They are infamous, and ought to be scourged out of the churches, as Christ with a whip drove the sellers of oxen and doves and the changers of money out of the temple.

Dr. William M. Taylor, of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, so well and so honourably remembered at Liverpool, continues in abundant labours in his American sphere. The annual report states that the income from pew-rents in 1878 was 37,222dols.; an increase of about 1,300dols. over the previous year; but there is still a debt of

50,000dols. on the building. In 1878, seventy-three were added to the church—forty-eight by transfer and twenty-five by confession—and the present membership is 968. The Ladies' Home Missionary Society numbers 103, with an average attendance of fifty, and sent out twenty trunks of clothing, &c., valued at 2,576dols. The "cheerful workers," a society of thirty young ladies, raised 600dols., and bear the expenses of Miss Carrie E. Bush, a member of the church, and missionary in Harpoot, Turkey. The benevolent contributions of the church were 13,972dols.; those to Western mission schools, &c., were 260dols. The church also sustains Sunday-schools, a mission church, a sewing school, a literary union for young people, a cemetery association (for securing decent Christian burial of deceased poor members), and departments for the distressed, the sick, and strangers.

Not long ago a minister out West wrote to the *Boston Congregationalist* to ask, "What proportion of Congregational ministers or Church members do you think believes the eighth of the ten points you have given as the summary of the Burial Bill Confession—to wit, 'the resurrection of the body?'" To this inquiry the reply was given:—"It would take omniscience to answer that question; but it requires nothing more than common sense and common honesty to see and to say that, since the National Council of the Congregational Churches constantly, and without dissent from any quarter, distinctly affirms the doctrine as the faith of its constituency, they ought to believe or change it." The *New York Independent*, which never loses an opportunity of running a tilt on this subject, comments on this as follows in its issue of March 13:—

There it is again, the theory so often exploded, and so seldom, even in creeds, definitely stated, that a creed binds the faith of the churches in whose interest it was made. What authority has any National Council to impose a creed on the denomination which it represents? Not a bit. It can tell, if it chooses, what a majority of its members believe; but this it gives, if at all, as a matter of history and record, and not of law. The adoption of a creed by a National Congregational Council means just this: A majority of us present, sent to represent the churches, hold the following beliefs. To imagine that the assertion of their belief has the least binding authority on any other person's belief, or on the belief of the minority, is to import the principle by which, since the Vatican Council, Bishop Guibert, of France, and Bishop Fitzgerald, of America—the two who voted against infallibility—were immediately bound to accept the dogma or leave the church. Nor are the dissenters on such a doctrine as the resurrection of the body bound "to change it." They could not, if they would, nor could God Himself, by command or revelation, change or annul what the General Council did, which was only to record what its members happened to believe. They believed it, and that is the end of it; and the assertion that it is "nothing more than common sense" to require those who disbelieve such a doctrine as the resurrection of the body to change the creed adopted by a defunct council is only an assertion that it is their duty to stir up strife.

Mr. Arthur Mursell seems to have succeeded in leaving behind him in America not a little ill-will; mainly springing out of his exceeding openness and plainness of speech, and the severe way in which he criticised certain cherished American "institutions" and usages in his letters to an English contemporary. We have come across quite a number of proofs of this for weeks past in our exchanges. One of the latest, and one of the most surprising, is that even the genial and excellent Dr. Dexter felt himself moved to write thus in a recent issue of the *Boston Congregationalist*:—

We wonder if the Rev. Arthur Mursell's evil angel will tempt him, when he is comfortably settled again in his English home, to write a book about his experiences in America. We fear so. We can bear it if he can; but, if the published extracts from his letters home, which have come back to us in English papers, are specimens of the tale he has to tell, he must be a phenomenon among travellers. He has displayed a positive genius for meeting people and seeing sights which are utterly unknown to us natives, and his accounts read not unlike those of "Gulliver's Travels."

Messrs. C. Kegan Paul and Co. are preparing for publication a new contribution to the history of Holland, at a time when her relations with England were of a critical nature. The book is by Mr. James Geddes, and is entitled "The History of the Administration of John de Witt, Grand Pensionary of Holland."

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN CONSUMPTION.—Dr. Sinclair Coghill, Physician to the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Ventnor, writes:—"For many years I have, in private practice, exclusively prescribed the Cod Liver Oil of Dr. de Jongh, from a large and intimate experience of its superiority as a remedial agent in appropriate cases to other Cod Liver Oils, ignorantly lauded on account of their comparative tastelessness and lightness of colour. More recently I have had, in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption here, an opportunity of instituting a more extensive and systematic comparison, and I have convinced myself that in Tubercular and the various forms of Strumous Disease, Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil possesses greater therapeutic efficacy than any other Cod Liver Oil with which I am acquainted. It was specially noted, in a large number of cases in which the patients protested they had never been able to retain or digest other Cod Liver Oil, that Dr. de Jongh's Oil was not only tolerated, but taken readily, and with marked benefit. Dr. de Jongh's Oil is now the only Cod Liver Oil used in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsules: imperial half-pints, 2s. 6d.; pints, 4s. 9d.; quarts, 9s.; by all chemists. Sole consignees, Ansar, Harford, and Co., 77, Strand, London.—[ADVT.]

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1879.

THE WEEK.

YESTERDAY Queen Victoria, travelling under the name of the Countess of Balmoral, left our shores for Cherbourg on her way to Baveno on the Lago Maggiore in Northern Italy. Her Majesty, who is expected to visit Germany, will be away from England about a month. The absence of the Sovereign at this critical time will either occasion great public inconvenience, or Her Majesty is ready to forego for the time being the exercise of those prerogatives which the Tory leaders tell us is absolutely essential to the well-being of the State. Cabinet Ministers cannot travel to Italy to take the royal commands, nor will it be easy to conduct the affairs of the Empire by telegraphic communications. We may, therefore, conclude that the Cabinet, which is responsible to Parliament, will be unshackled during the absence of the Queen; thus disposing of some of the fictions which Lord Beaconsfield has been inclined to palm upon the nation. Adverse criticism upon a royal journey at such a time must be disarmed by the semi-official announcement that Her Majesty goes to Italy "with the object of procuring rest and quiet, of which after her late trials she stands in much need," and all her loyal subjects will heartily wish that the Queen may find in new and tranquil scenes an entire renewal of health and spirits.

The crisis in South Africa, in its various aspects, still absorbs public attention. The news from Capetown comes down to March 5, when tidings had just arrived of the promise of large reinforcements from England. At that date the fear of a Zulu raid across the Natal frontier had entirely subsided, and there had been some negotiations with a view to the submission of Oham, the brother of Cetewayo, which had come to naught, owing to the terms offered to him being unacceptable. But the possible defection of so important a personage would, apart from the announced intention of the Zulu king not to take the offensive, account for his inaction. No attempt had been made to relieve Colonel Pearson and his force cooped up at Ekowe—the reinforcements brought by the Shah being inadequate for that purpose. The only available road from the fort to the frontier had been destroyed by the Zulus, who were in great force between Ekowe and the Tugela. Colonel Pearson had, however, made a raid, probably to secure provisions, and had inflicted great loss on his besiegers, and destroyed Cetewayo's old kraal. The discontent of the Basutos at the threat of a general disarmament continues, and one chief had risen against the Government, and attacked and destroyed the house of the British resident. There was some fear that the rising might be general, and volunteers were being enrolled in large numbers. The delay of the transports at St. Vincent may therefore have serious results in South Africa, where, when the last mail left, the strategy of Lord Chelmsford and the policy of Sir Bartle Frere were universally condemned, and there was a general want of confidence "in the authorities—civil, military, colonial, and Imperial."

The important question of telegraphic communication with the Cape, which, if it had not been so long neglected, might have entirely changed the aspect of affairs in South Africa, is at length settled. The Government have concluded an arrangement with the Eastern Telegraphic Company to lay a cable from Aden to Zanzibar and thence to Delagoa Bay, to be continued by a land line to Natal. Owing to the duplicate wires made for Australia being available, operations can be forthwith commenced, so that the first portion, from Zanzibar to Natal, may be completed as early as June next. The second sec-

tion, from Aden to Zanzibar, will, it is hoped, be laid by the end of October. As might be expected, the greater portion of the necessary subsidy will fall upon the Imperial Treasury; the colonists, who will so greatly benefit by the cable, paying a much smaller share of the cost.

The fresh batch of despatches issued by the Government have given a new aspect to the Zulu question at home, and induced Lord Lansdowne in the Upper House, and Sir Charles Dilke in the Commons, to recast their resolutions. These motions, identical in terms, take the following form:—"That this House, while willing to support Her Majesty's Government in all necessary measures for defending the possessions of Her Majesty in South Africa, regrets that the ultimatum, which was calculated to produce immediate war, should have been presented to the Zulu King without authority from the responsible advisers of the Crown, and that an offensive war should have been commenced without imperative and pressing necessity or adequate preparation." We have elsewhere referred to last night's debate in the House of Lords, and to the recent papers which have thrown a new light on the subject. The discussion in the Commons will open to-morrow evening, and is not expected to close before Monday or Tuesday next, by which time another mail from the Cape will have arrived. The main debate has been preceded by a remarkable incident in the House of Lords. In his latest despatch (Feb. 9) to the Secretary for War, Lord Chelmsford urges the desirability, "in view of future contingencies, of sending without delay an officer of the rank of major-general," who might also, in accordance with Sir Bartle Frere, be able to succeed him as High Commissioner. In the same letter his lordship says:—"In June last I mentioned privately to His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief that the strain of prolonged anxiety and exertion, physical and mental, was even then telling on me. What I felt then I feel still more now." On Monday the Duke of Cambridge stated that he had not the slightest recollection of having received such a letter, nor could any such communication be found at the Horse Guards. Indeed, up to the receipt of the last despatch he had thought Lord Chelmsford to be in robust health. The contingency referred to had been anticipated by four general officers having been sent out. But why the Government should hesitate to recall a general who confesses his unfitness to conduct a campaign, and a High Commissioner who has been severely censured, may be revealed in the course of the Parliamentary debates, but is, at the time we write, a profound mystery.

With regard to last night's debate in the House of Lords, all that need be said here is that the chief speakers for the Government showed a persistent objection to the recall of the High Commissioner; the Prime Minister actually contending that Sir Bartle was more suitable for his position than any other personage could be. Lord Lansdowne's amendment was rejected by a majority of 95 votes (156 to 61). It thus appears that less than 220 peers thought it worth while to be present on the occasion.

On Saturday last the French Deputies adopted, by 330 votes to 131, a motion that the Senate and Chamber should meet in Congress to revise the article in the Constitution which fixes the seat of the Legislature at Versailles. M. Lepere, the Minister of the Interior, declared that the Government coincided in the opinion of the Committee that the Chambers should return to Paris. The question is now before the Senate, which has voted urgency and appointed a committee to consider the proposal. If once the two assemblies meet as one body the proposal will, no doubt, be carried by a large majority, but the Left Centre members of the Senate are opposed to the change, and it is not quite certain that the proposal to go into Congress will be accepted.

It would seem that, thanks to Count Schouvaloff's influence, the Czar's policy in opposition to that of Prince Gortschakoff is still in the ascendant at St. Petersburg, and that his Majesty is resolved to carry out the Treaty of Berlin. Stringent orders to that effect have been sent to Prince Dondoukoff and the Russian generals, and the Tirnova Assembly has abandoned a waiting policy, as well as the project for sending an address to the Powers in favour of the union of the two Principalities. But it is agreed on all sides that the entrance of Turkish troops into Eastern Roumelia on the evacuation of the territory by Russia would be the signal for a general insurrection. With this contingency in view, the Czar has himself proposed, in an important Circular, that a mixed Commission should for one year administer the affairs of that Principality, supported by a mixed corps to ensure tranquillity. It is believed that negotiations on the subject are proceeding, Germany supporting the proposal, and possibly before the beginning of May a contingent of Russian, English, Austrian, and Italian troops will enter Roumelia after the evacuation. But how will the Porte regard this scheme for setting aside its claims?

The De Tocqueville scheme for furnishing Turkey with a loan has been formally declared to be null and void, and there is an obstacle to a more promising financial combination in the demand of Prince Gortschakoff that the Russian indemnity should have a prior claim. There is therefore still great anxiety at Constantinople, where the paper money declines in value, and where Osman Pasha, a good general, but a Moslem bigot, and totally wanting in statesmanlike qualities, is trying to supplant Khairaddin Pasha as Grand Vizier. But while the treasury is empty, Moukhtar Pasha coolly asks for an army of 40,000 men to defend Thessaly and Epirus, owing to the failure of the negotiations with Greece. The Porte badly wants money, but cannot be induced to resign adequate territory to the Hellenic Government as required by the Berlin Congress.

The Sultan's vassal, the Khedive of Egypt, has for the moment submitted to the demands of France and England. These Powers have presented to His Highness a joint note requiring that the two European members of the Council shall "have the right of conjointly imposing an absolute veto on all the measures of which they may disapprove," and plainly indicating that very grave consequences will ensue—that is, deposition—if the new arrangements are violated. This unprecedented policy is being carried out to protect the interests of the bondholders who have secured extortionate interest on their loans, so that out of a revenue of nine millions Ismail Pasha has to pay more than six millions interest on the Egyptian debt, while the great mass of his subjects are in a state of the most abject poverty.

Speculation is already busy as to the nature of the forthcoming Budget. It is taken for granted that there will be a large deficit. How it will be met is, we suppose, known only to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his colleagues. The simplest resource would, no doubt, be an increase of the heavy income-tax, which has already gone far to cure the country of Jingoism. It seems more probable, however, that Sir Stafford Northcote will meet the emergency by a proposal to augment our indirect taxation—such as by increasing the tobacco tax, or raising the duty on tea from sixpence to a shilling a pound. At all events, the tea merchants are not only on the *qui vive*, but are actively engaged in withdrawing stocks from bond, so as to pay under the present duty. They may be mistaken; but one result of the operation will be to swell the Customs revenue in the last week of the financial year, and thus put a better face on the statement which the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have to lay before the House of Commons to-morrow week.

SKETCHES FROM THE GALLERY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Monday Night.

When we find the House of Commons meeting on a Saturday in the middle of March we shall not be wrong in the conclusion that there has been a serious miscarriage of business intentions. Of course the first impulse in such a case is to go to headquarters. If the captain of a well-appointed ship gets out of his course he is held to blame, and no excuse short of a succession of hurricanes or an openly mutinous crew would be accepted. There has certainly been nothing of a hurricane nature in the business of the House of Commons since it met, nor has there been anything distinctly mutinous on the part of the crew. We can hardly be said to have had a really big debate this session. There was not even a Speech from the Throne on which to tack a prolonged conversation. No important bills have been introduced, and no circumstance of an extraordinary character has arisen.

There are the Home Rulers, who in Parliamentary affairs are like charity; inasmuch as they cover a multitude of sins. If anything goes wrong in the machinery of the House of Commons it is sure to be "the Irish members." There is doubtless some reason for this, in spite of new rules and amiable concessions, the Home Rule members have been inconveniently prominent. Mr. Biggar, for example, has displayed a measure of vitality almost superhuman. He is to the House of Commons what Snarleyow, the Dog Fiend, was to the characters in Captain Marryat's novel. He is always turning up at unexpected times and unforeseen junctures. He may, in a Parliamentary sense, be shot, or drowned, or poisoned, or certainly buried, and the next day he turns up as if nothing particular had happened, with his thumbs in the arm-holes of his waistcoat, and his eternal "Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems to me—" Mr. Parnell and Mr. O'Donnell have been doing outpost duty, and at Glasgow, and various other centres, have been flouting the Saxon. It has been Mr. Biggar's duty to stop at home and make the Chancellor of the Exchequer uncomfortable. This he has done with unvarying success. With the exception of the discussion on judicial reform, Mr. Biggar has spoken on every subject before the House during the past week, from the conveyance of voters to the duties on what he calls "clart." He has never anything particular to say, except to deduce from these varying premises the inevitable conclusion that injustice has been done to Ireland. But what he says takes up an appreciable amount of time, and by just so much the session is wasted.

Still there must remain some measure of responsibility with the leaders of the House for the condition of affairs indicated by the meeting of Parliament on a Saturday in March. The necessity arose in connection with the Supplementary Estimates, which must be passed through their final stages before March 31. This discovery seems to have been suddenly made on Thursday last, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer came down and made an appeal *ad misericordiam* to members who had amendments on the paper. These were numerous and important, and if they had been proceeded with there would have been no chance of Supply being reached. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's arguments prevailed, and an opportunity was provided for moving in Supply. But even here the fatal spirit of misrule scored a fresh victory. When last in committee on the Estimates progress had been reported, whilst yet the vote on law expenses was under consideration, Mr. Raikes forgot this, and was not reminded by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury or any of his colleagues. Accordingly, the committee took up the next vote, and it was not till late at night that the discovery of the oversight was made. There remained nothing but to go into committee again, and run all the risk of obstruction, happily overcome on the previous night. As it turned out no opposition was offered, and the vote was taken. But it was a narrow escape, and Mr. Biggar was not sure whether he was not lacking in patriotism to allow this great opportunity to slip.

The rapidity with which committee was disposed of on Thursday night in the absence of anything like obstruction permitted the President of the Local Government Board to bring in his County Boards Bill. This is an important measure with which the Government have

toyed ever since they came into office. If I remember rightly, it was mentioned among the very first promises of domestic legislation made by Lord Beaconsfield. It has been brought forward in the shape of a bill every session; the regularity of its appearance in February being equalled only by the certainty of its withdrawal in July. The bill suffers under the disadvantage of having as sponsor Mr. Sclater-Booth, whose advocacy of any bill seems fatal to it. He has a heavy, blundering way of explaining details, and when he gets into committee shows no ability to manage affairs. This, taken in conjunction with a spirit of compromise, has hitherto proved fatal to all his bills. The present one is not likely to be an exception to the rule. It has perhaps the distinction of being a little worse than any other he has brought in; a bad pre-eminence not easy to be overtopped. Intended to conciliate the landlords whilst mollifying the tenant farmer, it is likely to earn the contempt of both, and appears designed with the special object of shelving the question during the present Parliament.

On Friday night the House was occupied with the consideration of the resolutions brought forward by Sir Henry James calling attention to the existing mode of administering justice. For the nonce the House was transformed into the semblance of a court of justice. Lawyer succeeded lawyer, each differing from the other, and taxing his ingenuity to show cause against his "learned friend." It was not a lively performance, nor did it have any practical result. The lawyers made their speeches, enjoying the rare luxury of knowing that they would get nothing for them in the shape of fees. It was curious to note how they declined to pay each other the compliment of listening to arguments from the other side. Sir Henry James had the best audience of the evening, not because he is an attractive Parliamentary speaker—for he is rapidly falling from any eminence he may have attained in that direction—but because he spoke first; and hon. and learned gentlemen remained in their places in the hope of catching the Speaker's eye. As each spoke he made haste to leave the House, and by the time Mr. Grantham found his opportunity of addressing his "ludship"—I mean the Speaker—his audience was composed of Mr. Morgan Lloyd and Mr. Serjeant Simon. The Attorney-General, not to be outdone by his learned brethren, delivered a long speech, which positively conveyed no impression except that he was not prepared to recommend that anything should be done. As nobody expected he would, this created no flutter of surprise, and all the speeches being made, and it being nearly time for the Court to rise, Sir Henry James withdrew his resolution, and another night was added to the record of the session.

In both Houses to-night notice was given of an addendum on the resolutions on Zulu affairs suggested by the most recent despatch. These resolutions and the resolutions of the Government have acted and reacted on each other. In the first place Sir Charles Dilke, stopping short of demanding the recall of Sir Bartle Frere, condemned his policy. Then the Government took up the resolution and enlarged upon the despatch to the High Commissioner. This done Sir Charles Dilke goes a step further and takes up the story at the place where Sir Michael Hicks-Beach left it incomplete. He demands the recall of the author of our troubles at Natal; and it will be interesting to see how the Government get out of the difficulty which even their own despatches create for them. The way the wind is blowing was indicated in the House of Lords by the speech in which the Duke of Cambridge protested he knew nothing about the letter in which Lord Oshelsford alleges he in June last communicated the fact of his illness.

The Commons were occupied throughout the sitting in the discussion of affairs in Cyprus. Sir Charles Dilke made an able speech, and Mr. Forster enlarged upon the question of enforced labour. But on the threshold of a debate on a more recent trouble than Cyprus the House could not be made interested, and has been for the greater part of the night a wilderness.

"Sir," said a young lady to a would-be wag, "your jokes always put me in mind of a sphere."

"Of a sphere, madam! Why so, pray?" "Because they never have any point."

Two Irishmen were in prison—the one for stealing a cow and the other for stealing a watch.

"Hullo! Mike! What time is it?" said the cow-stealer to the other. "And sure, Pat, I haven't any timepiece handy; but I think it is most milking time."

An American contemporary has been asked, "Can a man belong to a brass band and be a Christian?" It replies, "We see no impediment in the way. But if he is a member of a brass band, and is given to practising on his cornet or trombone at home, it is an impossibility for the man living next door to be a Christian."

Religious and Denominational News.

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

A special meeting of the subscribers to this society was held on Tuesday at the Memorial Hall, to receive the final report of the committee of this association, the duties of which have now been transferred to the Congregational Church Aid and Home Missionary Society. Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., treasurer of the Home Missionary Society, and one of the treasurers of the Church Aid Society, occupied the chair.

The Rev. Dr. J. H. Wilson read the final report, which was as follows:—

On the 7th of May, 1878, the committee of the Home Missionary Society was reappointed to administer the grants made at Lady Day for the year then ensuing. This was done to facilitate the arrangements then in progress for the reorganisation of the society, so as more effectually to combine Church Aid with the work of Home Evangelisation. Having now completed this undertaking, the committee have the pleasure of presenting their final report. In doing so it is satisfactory to find that, notwithstanding the difficulties inseparably connected with a state of transition and the depression of trade which has prevailed, the income will be sufficient to meet the expenditure.

In looking back on the work done during the past twenty years, with which the officers and a considerable proportion of the present committee have been identified, there is much room for thankfulness. A few facts out of the many that might be adduced will make this plain. In 1859 a new policy of administration was adopted. Instead of working apart from, and sustaining missions independently of, county associations, it was then resolved to work through them. The society thus became a stimulating rather than a directing central power. To carry out this principle, conference meetings were arranged in central districts, in every county in England and in part of Wales, all of which were attended by the treasurer and secretary as a deputation from the parent society; while county unions which had taken the initiative in preparing the business were largely represented. Carefully prepared statistics soon made it clear that a more aggressive agency was required than had yet been employed, and this was gradually supplied by a system of grouping small churches, placing them under able home mission pastors, and the appointment of lay evangelists, who might, under local superintendence, do such work in the country as efficient city missionaries were doing in the towns. The Divine blessing has been largely bestowed on this order of means, which has also been more or less accepted and carried out by county associations, with which the Home Missionary Society was not then affiliated.

Nor have the spiritual results been less satisfactory; but these cannot be tabulated; for, although the returns show that during these twenty years, and within the sphere of the society's labours, twenty thousand members have been added to our village churches from the world, one hundred and fifty thousand young men and women have passed through the Bible-classes, and at least three hundred thousand children have attended the day and Sunday-schools at the stations. This indicates but a small portion of the good done.

But with all this progress it was every day becoming evident that a more comprehensive combination of our spiritual forces was necessary, so as to meet new forms of error, and the growth of evils peculiar to the present age. It was felt that if, with our limited means and resources, so much good had been done as has just been indicated, much more might be accomplished by the confederation of all the County Unions, and as this has now been happily effected, and all the objects of the society are to be carried out, by a system of management based on the principle of equitable representation, the committee cannot but heartily bid God-speed to the new organisation.

The Rev. J. G. ROGERS, B.A., in a speech highly eulogistic of the services of Mr. Morley and Dr. Wilson, and reviewing the good work accomplished by the society, moved the following resolution:—

That the report now read be adopted, and that the best thanks of this meeting be and are hereby tendered to the treasurer, secretary, and other members of the committee of the Home Missionary Society for their efficient administration of its affairs.

This was seconded by the Rev. Dr. CLEMENCE, who expressed a hope that the churches might move as freely and happily under the new arrangements as they had done under the old, and that the new society might be as prosperous, on a larger scale, as the Home Missionary Society had been on the smaller.

Mr. W. R. SPICER said that he joined the society with the treasurer about twenty years ago. (Hear, hear.) It was, perhaps, through the treasurer that Dr. Wilson had been brought to London and associated with the society, and the good which had been done was mainly due to the treasurer and Dr. Wilson. No one could tell the amount of labour which Mr. Morley had bestowed upon the society. (Hear, hear.) The treasurer and the secretary had travelled thousands of miles up and down the country to different places. The resolution was carried with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN, who had come from a sick room to attend the meeting, thanked his kind friends for their recognition of his services. He believed that the principle of local action and local government was the true principle. Twenty years ago they found a system existing by which it was sought to accomplish this result through the society. The consequence was that large sums were being remitted to London in order to be sent back again. They altered that by requesting that all sums collected to be spent in a neighbourhood should be kept there, so that the responsibility of spending the money should rest on those who raised it. They helped so far as their advice was welcomed, but in that way they shifted on other shoulders than their

own those responsibilities. He had seen the wisdom of that course—(Hear, hear)—and he firmly believed that the new society would act in the same direction. They had an anxious future before them, and a great deal would depend on the personal service that not only each one in that room, but all amongst them could bring to bear to attract the public attention of the churches, and their personal and active co-operation in carrying on this important work. He felt grateful to have been associated in the work of the Home Missionary Society with Dr. Wilson, who had taken the responsibility connected with the wonderful amount of detail which always existed, and had been so competent a coadjutor. He hoped they would be able to go down the hill together, acting together in connection with many works still demanding our co-operation. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. WILSON, in thanking the meeting for the kind acknowledgment of his services, indulged in some reminiscences of the origin and work of the Home Missionary Society, the income of which had gradually grown from 7,250*l.* twenty years ago to 26,000*l.* last year. The spiritual progress no one could possibly describe, for spiritual life had come into places where, before the visits from the society, there was comparative indifference, to say the least. In view of the forthcoming work of the new organisation, he was anxious to urge the need of keeping up this practice of visitation, and it was pleasing to know that the leading men in connection with that movement were anxious that this should be done. The history of the Home Missionary Society during those twenty years might be said to be unique, for the minute-book did not contain the record of a single division, so that they had been exceedingly unanimous in coming to practical conclusions. With reference to the forthcoming organisation, after what Mr. Rogers had said, he (Dr. Wilson) might be asked why he did not continue the secretaryship. It was due to the committee to say that they wished him to continue for some years to come; but although he felt conscious of no abatement of physical strength, and though he felt that he had the strength and the energy of thirty years of age, he could not expect their friends through the country, and especially their younger friends, to believe that a man on the shady side of sixty could do the work of a man of forty. And seeing that the work had risen to such gigantic proportions, and the society was to be a confederation of all the counties and unions on a representative basis, he thought it better that he should retire and become a silent partner in the concern; and the more so as he should still have the hall and library, and be within call for any Christian service which his brethren might wish him to undertake. Under these circumstances he retired, most grateful to his friends for their recognition of his services, and most especially to their Heavenly Father, that He had given them so long the enjoyment of fellowship in Christian work. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. AVELING, in a speech which touched on some of the special characteristics of the Home Missionary Society, moved:—

That in closing another era in the history of the Home Missionary Society this meeting, while gratefully acknowledging the rich and effectual blessing that has been bestowed by God on its labours, would cordially recommend the new organisation as calculated to carry out yet more fully the object of the society by a confederation of all the county unions under a system of management and on a principle which combines local superintendence with equitable representation.

Mr. JAMES SPICER said that they could not be too grateful for what had already been done, and he therefore testified his full appreciation of it. He had great hope for the future, but still it would require the energy of all, and there must be an amount of liberality shown in the matter, or else they would not accomplish all that they expected. They must not lose their treasurer in the work. He had a large field to work upon. He (Mr. Spicer) hoped that Mr. Morley would throw his great influence into the work, and be at their meetings as treasurer, letting them feel that they had a treasurer who was thoroughly interested in the work, and who would not let it go down. They had two valuable treasurers in the persons of Mr. Morley and Mr. Lee, and, by their joint efforts, he believed that the great work would be immensely stimulated and carried on.

The resolution was put to the meeting by the Chairman, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. R. H. LOVELL closed the meeting with prayer.

Officiating on Sunday at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Mr. C. Spurgeon, jun., referred to the health of his father, which, he said, was physically and mentally much improved, though a weakness at the knees still existed. Notwithstanding this weakness he was determined to appear once more before and address his flock on Sunday, April 13.

LEICESTER.—Services in connection with the settlement of the Rev. J. G. Greenhough, M.A., of Bristol, over the Baptist Church, Victoria-road, Leicester, were held on the 18th instant. The Rev. R. Glover, of Bristol, preached in the afternoon, and in the evening there was a public meeting. Mr. G. Vicars in the chair, and having briefly stated the circumstances which led to Mr. Greenhough's being invited to settle in Leicester, the newly-elected minister gave an address in which he indicated the theme and the spirit of his public ministry, and the rules he hoped to observe as to pastoral visitation and work outside his own congregation. After addresses from Mr. Thew and

Mr. Henderson, of Coventry, the Rev. J. Morley Wright in his own name and on behalf of the Congregationalists, expressed his congratulations, sympathy, and good wishes. A speech was also delivered by Mr. Platten, of Birmingham. Mr. Glover, of Bristol, who followed, after stating the anxiety and regret of the Bristol friends at losing Mr. Greenhough, very cordially congratulated the new pastor on having such a fine, promising sphere of labour, and the people on having made so wise and good a choice. A vote of thanks to the visitors and speakers was moved by Mr. Wilshears. Mr. Greenhough seconded the motion, and it was supported by Mr. G. B. Franklin.

THE WESLEYANS.—The Wesleyans have now raised 105,000*l.* towards their Thanksgiving Fund, and nearly 3,000*l.* on behalf of the Cornwall Relief Fund. The Connectional Finances Committee have very fully discussed the case of the Schools Fund, the assessment of which it was proposed to change, and it has been ultimately decided that it would be inexpedient to alter either the present method or rate of assessment. A resolution was passed, reducing from six to four years the ordinary term allotted for the education of ministers' sons. Boys are to be admitted to the middle-class school at eleven years of age, and to the higher-class school at twelve. It has been arranged that the twenty-fifth annual meeting on behalf of Wesleyan Methodist education shall be held in Exeter Hall next Wednesday, the President of the Conference presiding. Dr. Punshon and other leading ministers have promised to attend. Dr. Rigg, the President of the Conference, presided at a meeting on behalf of the Wesleyan Thanksgiving Fund at York on Friday. In speaking of the rapid increase of the wealth and prosperity of England, he said there had also been an upgrowth of High-Churchism, which was essentially Popery. There was evidently an organised conspiracy in this, and it behoved the Methodist body more than any other to counteract the movement.

THE CHURCH AID SOCIETY.—The first administrative meeting of the Council of the Church Aid Society was held in London on the 4th inst., when there was a large attendance of members from all parts of the country. The meeting of the Council had been preceded by a meeting of the executive and of some of its sub-committee, by which the large mass of details contained in the budgets forwarded by the several county associations was examined and tabulated for the use of the Council. From an *ad interim* report submitted to the Council by the hon. secretary, it appears that the estimated gross income of the society for the year is 29,595*l.* The amount expended by the county associations and the Home Missionary Society during last year was 25,278*l.* There is thus on the first year of the new society a substantial increase of resource. This would have been much greater (1) but for the calamitous times through which the manufacturing districts are passing; (2) but for the fact that the general associations have not been able to set in motion the new auxiliary machinery in time to tell materially on the income for the year; and (3) but for the wise and laudable determination of those associations whose income for the year is estimated and not as yet realised, not to embarrass themselves in the first year of the society's administration by promising amounts which it would be difficult or impossible to raise. In a considerable majority of cases it is believed that the contributions promised by the associations are stated at a minimum. In some of the counties a material advance has been made on the contributions of last year for Church Aid and Home Missionary purposes. Essex spent last year 825*l.*; for this year it contributes 1,250*l.* Last year Gloucester and Hereford spent 1,034*l.*; for this year that association contributes 2,022*l.* Lancashire spent last year 3,155*l.*; for this year it contributes 4,000*l.* London spent last year 1,484*l.*; for this year it contributes 3,250*l.* North Staffordshire spent last year 403*l.*; for this year it promises 680*l.* Worcestershire spent last year 95*l.*; for this year it contributes 255*l.* Special amounts paid into the central fund are (in these statements) credited to the association within whose bounds the donor resides. Should there be a corresponding increase in the contributions of the other associations for next year, as is confidently hoped, there will be means of rendering substantial help to the weaker counties and of at once inaugurating wiser and more generous methods of extension. The total amount voted for the year is 28,415*l.*, being 3,137*l.* more than the amount spent last year by the Associations and the Home Missionary Society together. The council has agreed to propose at the annual meeting that Mr. Hannay shall be reappointed hon. secretary, and that the Rev. E. F. Hartland shall be associated with him as secretary in the work of the society. The proposed appointment of Mr. Hartland has given widespread satisfaction, and we have no doubt that the coming year will demonstrate the wisdom of the step which has been taken in forming the Congregational Church Aid and Home Missionary Society.—*English Independent.*

Professor Peters, of Clinton, New York, announces the discovery (by himself presumably) on March 21-22, of two minor planets.

The University of Aberdeen has acknowledged the services of Mr. Peter Bayne to history and literature by conferring on him the degree of LL.D.

Mr. Matthew Arnold is preparing a selection from Wordsworth's poems for the well-known Golden Treasury Series.

CHAPPUIS' DAYLIGHT REFLECTORS FOR COUNTING HOUSES.—69, Fleet-street.

MILTON MOUNT COLLEGE.

Some time since, as we learn from a statement before us, a circular signed by Mr. Charles Jupe, Thomas Simpson, and others, was issued relative to the accounts of this college, from which it appears that a report had been obtained from Messrs. Kemp, Ford, and Co. to the effect that there had been certain irregularities in those accounts. When the matter was brought before the executive committee of the Milton Mount College, they requested the same firm further to investigate the subject, and include a general examination of the accounts of the institution from the beginning. The report of Messrs. Kemp, Ford, and Co., dated March 19, 1879, has now been presented. They state that they have examined the books of the college, and have found sundry discrepancies, to which they refer in detail, and add:—

So far as our investigation has gone, we have discovered nothing to lead us to suppose in the slightest degree that the whole of the money received for the college has not been properly accounted for; but we feel it our duty to impress upon the committee the importance of having the accounts kept on a uniform principle, so as to disclose the actual income of the college, the details of its expenditure and the state of its affairs. We further impress upon the committee the necessity of the accounts being duly verified by submitting them to an independent audit, with all possible evidence relating to the receipt and disposal of the moneys entrusted to them.

The accountants add that the discrepancies referred to in their report to Mr. Simpson are capable of being reconciled. In their remarks on Messrs. Kemp, Ford, and Co.'s report, the committee state that the suggestion made by that firm respecting the mode of keeping the accounts in future has been in actual operation since May 1, 1878. In reference to the remark of Mr. Simpson and his co-signatories that they had vainly sought a friendly conference, but had been treated with "silent disdain," the committee state that no application had been made to them for a conference, and they explain that any three members of the general board of management can call upon the secretary to summon a special meeting, and that if such meeting had not been summoned, it was only because Mr. Simpson had been unable to induce three members to take the initial step. Other quotations from the circular as to the personal treatment of Mr. Simpson and his friends are given, and the committee state in reply that they are "not aware of any circumstances which justify these statements, and believe the bulk of them to be absolutely without any foundation in fact." The committee add, "that the errors denominated 'clerical' arose through entrusting the preparation of the lists to a temporary clerk, the secretary being at the time much occupied with other work connected with the college." The allegations and insinuations of the circular having produced much disquiet among the friends of the college, the committee have thought it right immediately to publish the result of Messrs. Kemp and Co.'s investigations.

While the accountants' report was being prepared, the following proposal was made to the committee by the committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales: "That this committee, believing that the continued agitation relative to the management of Milton Mount College is not only a discredit to the denomination, but imperils the existence of an institution proved to be of great value to our ministers, respectfully requests the executive of the college to allow an independent committee to be nominated by this committee to investigate the various points that have been raised in connection with the management, with the view of securing that general confidence of the churches which is essential to its efficient support." To this proposal the executive at once replied by the following resolution:—"The executive committee of Milton Mount College acknowledges the receipt of the resolution of March 4, from the committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, and fully appreciating the proposed action and welcoming full investigation by the special committee, resolves to place at its disposal all books and papers, and to furnish all such evidence as it may deem necessary to enable it fully to examine the various points that have been raised, in the earnest hope that this effort may be entirely successful in securing for the college the general confidence and support of the churches."

The Academy hears that Mr. H. M. Stanley is on his way to Zanzibar, with a commission from the King of the Belgians to reorganise the Belgian expedition, which, as we have from time to time recorded, has met with a constant succession of misfortunes since its first arrival on the East Coast, and has as yet done practically nothing. Indeed, we should fear that from the want of tact and management exhibited, even if the present leaders did succeed in establishing a "station," it would almost inevitably turn out a failure. A second expedition is being organised under the auspices of the International African Association, and one of its members has already started for Zanzibar.

A prospectus has been issued of the Royal Exchange Bank (Limited), which proposes to take over, on favourable terms, the business and premises of the Metropolitan Bank in Cornhill. 8,000 of the shares have been appropriated, fully paid, to shareholders of that bank, and the remaining 12,000 of the first issue are offered for public subscription. An advertisement appears elsewhere.

Epitome of News.

On Thursday the thirty-first birthday of Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, was celebrated at Windsor with the customary rejoicings. It is said that Her Royal Highness will pay a long visit to England in the summer.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and suite, left Windsor Castle yesterday morning, en route for Italy, going to Portsmouth by rail, and embarking there at noon on board the Victoria and Albert, the Galatea and Alberta being an escort to Cherbourg. From thence the royal party will proceed by rail to Paris, and rest there for a night.

On Monday the King of the Belgians and the Prince of Wales dined with Lord Beaconsfield at his residence in Downing-street.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, after spending about ten days at Esher, went to Windsor on a visit to the Queen, and remained several days. They have since resided in Buckingham Palace prior to their departure for their wedding trip.

The Prince of Wales held a levee on Monday at St. James's Palace on behalf of the Queen. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Christian were present. The presentations were about 200 in number.

The Earl of Beaconsfield, accompanied by Mr. Montagu Corry, left for Windsor Castle on Sunday evening, and returned to town on Monday morning.

The House of Commons is to adjourn on the 8th of April for the Easter holidays, and will meet again on the 17th.

Lord Napier of Magdala left Southampton on Thursday for Gibraltar, to resume his duties as Governor of that fortress. So there is an end of the rumours as to his going to take the command at the Cape.

The President of the Board of Trade has offered to Captain Sir George Nares, R.N., K.C.B., the appointment of one of the professional advisers of the Board, vacant by the death of Vice-Admiral G. A. Bedford. Sir George Nares is at present serving in command of Her Majesty's ship *Alert* in the Pacific.

The London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* "understands" that the Government have resolved not to dissolve Parliament till the autumn of next year. In that case next year's session will be a brief one.

It is believed that the bulk of the Irish members will support Sir Charles Dilke's motion on the Zulu war. The hon. baronet will also receive, if not the united, the general support of the Opposition, and one or two Conservatives are expected to follow him into the lobby, Sir Henry Holland among them.

Major O'Reilly, M.P., has accepted the appointment of Roman Catholic paid Commissioner of Intermediate Education, in place of the Rev. Dr. Molloy, who resigned. The salary is 800*l.* a year. It had been previously offered to Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the colleague of Mr. Butt in the representation of the county of Limerick. The hon. and learned gentleman, however, declined it.

The Ireland Scholarship, the "blue ribbon" of the University of Oxford, has been awarded to Mr. A. Clark, exhibitor, of Balliol College—proxime accessit, Mr. J. W. Mackail, exhibitor, Balliol College. There were seventeen candidates.

A meeting of Liberals at Liberton, near Edinburgh, on Saturday night, passed a resolution in furtherance of the candidature of Mr. Gladstone for Midlothian, condemning the recent wholesale manufacture of fagot votes, and disapproving of the policy of the Government.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the subject of the lighting of towns by means of electricity, and to which the Liverpool Lighting Bill was referred, has determined to go into the general question, settle the principle, and then leave the thirty-four private bills which ask for powers to light by electricity to be dealt with by the regular committees of the House of Commons. The inquiry will commence on the 31st inst.

As the result of a temperance conference recently held at Frome, a committee was appointed to communicate with directors of neighbouring railway companies, urging them to give facilities for those of their passengers who preferred non-intoxicating beverages to procure these at the railway. A memorial in that sense was accordingly drawn up and forwarded to the companies. The Midland Company have replied, pointing out that they have already given practical effect to their views on this question by reducing the price of tea and coffee in refreshment-rooms under their control. Courteous letters promising that the memorials shall be duly considered have also been received from the Great Western and London and South-Western directors.

A bazaar was opened on Saturday by the Earl of Shaftesbury at the Cannon-street Hotel, in behalf of the funds of Mrs. Hilton's Crèche, Stepney-causeway. Among the contributions to the stalls is some needlework done by the daughters of the Princess Christian, who is the patroness of this infants' home.

The annual members' meeting at Birmingham will be held on Wednesday, April 16, when Mr. Bright, Mr. Muntz, and Mr. Chamberlain will address their constituents.

It is stated that the compromise proposed to the City of Glasgow Bank creditors will be from 15*s.* to 17*s.* 6*d.* per pound.

Fifteen thousand miners in Durham received

notice on Saturday that their wages will be reduced fifteen per cent.

The Parliamentary Committee on Indian Public Works has concluded its labours, and the report is likely to be in favour of considerable retrenchment. It may even go to the extent of suggesting that money expended upon public works should only be devoted to that purpose when it can be raised in India.

The list of honours in the Cambridge Classical Tripos was issued on Friday. The total number of candidates was seventy-four, some of whom were from Toronto, Capetown, and Bombay. Edward Vernon Arnold, of Trinity College, was the first classic.

According to a Parliamentary paper, the total amount expended under last year's Vote of Credit was 3,197,469*l.*, leaving a surplus of 2,802,531*l.* to be surrendered to the Exchequer.

The report as to the actual profits realised last year by Messrs. Bass and Co. is stated to have been a gross exaggeration of the facts. Nothing even approaching the sum alleged was divided by the firm.

Mr. Beresford-Hope was on Wednesday unanimously elected a trustee of the British Museum, in the room of the late Earl Russell. Twenty-one trustees were present at the election, including Lord Beaconsfield and most of the Cabinet Ministers.

The Albert and Battersea Bridges and also Chelsea Bridge will be thrown open to the public, free of toll, in about six weeks from the present date, though the exact day is not fixed. The sum agreed to be paid for the Albert and Battersea Bridges by the Metropolitan Board of Works is 170,000*l.*

At a special meeting of the committee of the Hanley Conservative Club on Thursday evening, it was resolved to strike off the name of Mr. Norman, the Deputy Town Clerk, one of the members, from the books, for neglect to rise when Lord Beaconsfield's health was proposed at a tripe supper. Mr. Norman declared himself a strict Conservative, but considered that the Premier was a stain on true Conservatism, that his public career was one of treachery and deception to the true interests of Conservatives, and that his aim was his own self-aggrandisement.

The Public Libraries Acts have been adopted at Richmond by a majority of 522, the numbers voting being—for the adoption of the Acts, 1140; against, 618.

A cargo of rags which has arrived at Newcastle, from Russia, has been placed in quarantine, lest it should engender plague in the town.

Sir H. Layard is to go back to Constantinople at the end of next month.

The *Cornishman* narrates an unprecedented and accidental take of birds. On the St. Ives fishing boat *Davis* hauling in her nets on Friday morning, in addition to about 100 mackerel, there were 400 gulls, kittiwakes, and "murrs" in the meshes. One hundred were alive and were liberated, 300 were dead and taken to Penzance, where they sold on Saturday for 2*s.* 6*d.*

The Lord Mayor, entertaining the directors of the Bank of England at a banquet, mentioned that whereas in 1840 the amount of money deposited in various banks was 100,000,000*l.* sterling, it was now estimated at 600,000,000*l.*

A meeting of gentlemen interested in the hospitals of London was held on Friday at the residence of Sir T. Fowell Buxton, when the present hospital system was alleged to be in a state of disorganisation, and a proposal was made that a Royal Commission of Inquiry should be asked for. Ultimately a suggestion of Mr W. E. Forster, M.P., was adopted, that a committee should be appointed to collect information with a view to future action.

A bronze colossal statue, by Mosman, of Dr. Livingstone, was unveiled on Wednesday on the west side of George Square, Glasgow, in the presence of several thousand persons, by Mr James White, chairman of the committee of subscribers. Dr. Livingstone's two daughters and Dr. Stewart, of Livingstonia, were present. The Lord Provost and magistrates officially received the statue in the name of the citizens of Glasgow. The statue represents Dr. Livingstone with a Bible in one hand and a cap in the other. This is the thirteenth statue in George Square. The movement for the erection of the statue was instituted five years ago. A sum of £500 in the hands of the Livingstone Expedition Fund Committee was given towards the memorial, and in a very short time the subscriptions brought it up to £2000.

An unusually daring robbery is reported from Preston. On Friday, during dinner hour, at Mr. E. Birley's cotton mill, thieves broke into the cashier's office, and abstracted between 500*l.* and 600*l.* in cash, the wages of the operatives for the week.

Eighteen valuable beasts have died at Eastbourne through eating the branches of yew trees.

A numerous attended meeting of the London engineers now on strike was held on Saturday evening, at which a resolution was passed expressing a determination to continue the struggle.

One of the largest firms of engineers in the Barnley district has given notice of an extension of the working hours. The men consented to these terms, and continued working.

The question of erecting a new bridge below London Bridge has again been before the Metropolitan Board of Works. The works committee to whom the subject was referred reported against the project, and advised that the bill now before Parliament should be dropped. Fortunately the re-

commendation was not adopted, and the board decided to go on with the bill.

In presiding on Saturday afternoon at a lecture delivered by Mr. J. B. Gough, in Exeter Hall, the Right Hon. W. F. Cowper Temple, M.P., referred to the coffee taverns which are being opened throughout the country. These public-houses, where the public could not get alcoholic liquor of any kind, but were supplied instead with wholesome and refreshing beverages, had, he said, been a source of great good, and it was encouraging to find that at the fourteen or fifteen coffee taverns in London 4,000 pledges had been signed. They had caused a great revolution in the habits of the working class, for in them they found all the attractions and comforts which they formerly sought in the public-houses, and were satisfied with refreshing and non-intoxicating beverages.

Mr. Hugh Mason, having definitely declined to stand in the Liberal interest for Ashton-under-Lyne at the next election, Mr. Alfred Illingworth is said to be the probable Liberal candidate.

A sum of 5,000*l.* of the Mansion House Hungarian Floods Relief Fund has been distributed among the sufferers. Count Karolyi, Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, has received from the Minister President, Herr von Tisza, information to the effect that in Szegedin itself about 60,000 persons have lost their homes and the whole of their property, and in the neighbouring communes about 10,000 men have similarly suffered. All these have now been temporarily housed in different homes in Hungary, where they will remain until the subsiding of the waters will enable them to return and reconstruct their homesteads. On Monday the fund amounted to about 8,000*l.*

The Stockport cotton masters have resolved to reduce the wages of their spinners and weavers by 5 per cent, and those of the other classes of operatives by 10 per cent.

James Simms, an American seaman, was executed in Newgate on Monday for the murder of a woman of bad character in Shadwell.

Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, Bart., Wallington, Northumberland, and Nettlescombe, Somerset, died at his first-named seat on Monday. Sir Walter, who was president of the United Kingdom Alliance, and had contributed largely to its funds, was aged eighty-two.

Miscellaneous.

THE LICENSING QUESTION.—The bill brought in by Mr. Rodwell, Mr. Serjeant Simon, Mr. Arthur Mills, Mr. Leatham, and Mr. Mark Stewart, to amend the Licensing Act (1872), has been printed. It consists of three clauses, which are as follow:—

1. Upon the hearing of every application for a new licence for the sale of intoxicating liquors, the licensing authority shall take into consideration the character, circumstances, and population of the district proposed to be served, and the number of licensed houses therein, and no new licence shall be granted unless the application for the same be supported by a requisition signed by such a proportion of the residents in such district as shall satisfy the licensing authority, and they shall find as a fact upon evidence taken on oath that such licence is necessary to supply a public want. 2. No confirmation or any grant shall be valid unless the confirming authority shall find as a fact, upon sworn evidence, that the licence applied for is required to supply a public want, and they shall record such finding. 3. The licensing authority are hereby empowered, for the purposes of this Act, to examine witnesses and administer such oath or affirmation as may be necessary, any statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

DISTURBANCE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS.—DECISION IN THE BIRMINGHAM CASE.—At the Birmingham police-court, on Monday, Mr. Kynnersley, Stipendiary, gave his decision in the cases of *Arculus v. Alderman Collings*, Mayor of Birmingham, and *Mr. J. S. Wright*, president of the Birmingham Liberal Association. After recapitulating the general facts of the case, his Worship said he considered the charge of assault was fully made out against the defendants. He based his decision on fact only. As to the Mayor's instructions to Major Bond, and the latter directing the removal of 70 or 80 persons who in his judgment were disturbing the proceedings, he was willing to give every facility for obtaining a decision in a superior court. He himself had a constitutional prejudice against bringing great bodies of police to meetings. He, however, considered the case of such a trifling nature that it was not expedient to order any penalty, however nominal; but he was afraid in that case there would be no opportunity of taking the proceedings to a higher court. The penalty, would, therefore, be 20*s.* and costs in each case. Later in the day the Stipendiary withdrew the penalty, remarking that he would adjourn the cases for a week. Meantime he would afford the parties every facility for an appeal, and if found there was no possibility of framing a case for a higher court, he would say that the injury was so trivial as not to merit any penalty, and dismiss the case on payment of costs.

MASSACRE OF A MISSIONARY PARTY.—Full details have been received of the massacre of Missionary Ingram at Brooker Island, one of the Louisiade Islands, as well as the party who accompanied him. It appeared that Mr. Ingram went to Brooker Island for the purpose of recovering some property stolen by the natives from another missionary named Redlick. He was accompanied on his expedition by the crew of the vessel *Wm. Isler*, one Chinaman,

and three Kanakas, and had on board two guns, one a nine-pounder. Two of the crew were left at an adjacent fishing station. On arrival at Brooker Island the natives received Mr. Ingram very kindly, and even killed two pigs in his honour. This, however, proved to be a subterfuge to allay suspicion. All of Redlick's property and firearms were also given up. Suddenly, however, when the party were off their guard, they were massacred by the natives before they could even fire a shot in self-defence. The matter was not known until some little time afterwards, when the Rev. Mr. McFarlane paid a visit to the island. He anchored about 150 yards off the village. Ingram's steamer *Voura*, entirely dismantled, and presenting full evidence of the horrible massacre, was lying on the beach. At night several natives came down to the beach, when Mr. McFarlane heard the Australian "Cooey," followed by the English words, "Who are you?" Mr. McFarlane then knew that the men were Mr. Redlick's Torres Straits natives. They gave full particulars of the massacre, which they said was caused by the white man threatening to shoot them for stealing an axe. All efforts on Mr. McFarlane's part to obtain Mr. Ingram's books, &c., failed. The Australians think that as this is the eighth or ninth party that has been murdered—either shipwrecked sailors or fishing parties—a war vessel should be sent by Government to this group of islands.

LADIES' COLLEGE AT OXFORD.—Oxford, it seems, is no longer to lag behind Cambridge in the matter of the education of women. An association has been formed, funds have been subscribed, and lectures on the modern and ancient languages, mathematics, logic, political economy, and history are to be delivered regularly during term time. If money comes in, scholarships will be given to ladies who deserve them, and students who require help will be aided in meeting the very moderate expenses of the course. That the ladies may enjoy the advantages of supervision and of collegiate life, two halls are being founded. One is named Somerville, after the late Mrs. Somerville, the great mathematician. Here students will lead a life "modelled on that of an English family," and will be expected on Sundays "to attend some place of worship chosen by themselves and their parents." The other hall, which is still nameless, chooses as a model not an "English," but a "Christian family," which is very much the same sort of thing, in this country at least, though the habits of a Christian family of converted Zulus or of Choctaws doubtless vary considerably from those to which we are accustomed. We have no doubt, however, that the warden of Keble College, who is on the committee of this hall, means to choose as his model an English Christian family. "Definite religious instruction is offered," whereas at Somerville Hall the committee only intend to "arrange for the instruction in the Holy Scripture of such students as desire it." The little differences between the hall with which the warden of Keble is connected and Somerville Hall are doubtless by this time sufficiently manifest. At the former the student receives "definite religious instruction"; at the latter, if she chooses, she can receive "instruction in Holy Scripture." In the circular of the former something is said about "the principles of the Church of England" which are not pointedly referred to in the circular of the latter. It is plain, we think, that in one or other of the two halls ladies of all opinions will have an opportunity of pursuing their studies peacefully and happily, and nothing more can be desired.—*Daily News*.

FEMALE TEACHERS IN BOARD SCHOOLS.—In the House of Commons on Thursday a curiously suggestive discussion arose out of a vote of one hundred and six thousand pounds for purposes of public education in England and Wales. Mr. Chamberlain asked whether it was true that the Birmingham School Board had been informed by the Education Department that the grants would be withdrawn from certain schools under the management of the Board unless the female teachers employed in some of the boys' schools were replaced by male teachers. Lord George Hamilton, in reply, was compelled to hint that there were grave objections to the employment of female teachers in boys' schools, the fact being "that the teachers as a rule were young, and were brought in frequent contact with the headmaster, under whose control they were, and more than one case of immorality had occurred." With this reply Mr. Mundella expressed himself dissatisfied, pointing out that in the United States boys, little and big, were habitually and admirably taught by women; and that on boys under eleven years of age the influence of a woman was likely to be far greater than that of a young man. Mr. McLaren maintained that the experiment now being tried at Birmingham had been two years in highly successful operation at Gillespie's School in Edinburgh, the thirteen hundred scholars of which were taught mainly by young women. Mr. Plunkett, hoping that the practice of employing women teachers in schools for boys would spread generally through the country, counselled the adoption of the system pursued in America of training young girls from their earliest childhood in the normal schools, where they learned to teach while they themselves were being taught, and thus acquired the valuable art of exercising scholastic authority. Mr. Dillwyn expressed a hope that the Vice-Presidents of the Council would reconsider the rigid rule which he had laid down in the matter; and, in conclusion, Lord George

Hamilton, wisely assuming the conciliatory mood, offered to talk the whole matter over with Mr. Chamberlain in a friendly manner.

THE EDISON ELECTRIC LIGHT.—A New York correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"It is now known that Mr. Edison has failed in his experiments. The most that he has ever yet accomplished has been to maintain 400 coiled iron wires in a state of partial incandescence with a 16-horsepower steam-engine. The object of this experiment was to ascertain the number of coils which could be brought to a red heat in any given circuit. It is upon this experiment that Mr. Edison based his claim that he could maintain 20,000 lights burning from one electric station with a 600-horsepower engine. The conclusion was a fallacious one, as Mr. Edison now knows. Platinum must be heated to 2,700 deg. before it attains the intensity of incandescence which is required for illumination, and when the metal is as hot as that it is just on the verge of melting. To prevent the lamp from melting, this inventor has used a regulator consisting of a bar of metal through which the current flowed, which, when the current became too strong, expanded and switched off a part of the current and thus saved the lamp. In practice this regulator has failed to perform the service required of it. When the current becomes strong, the platinum burner melts in the twinkling of an eye, and the mischief is done before the regulator can act. The inventor believed that he could overcome this practical difficulty, but he has not succeeded. His lamps have continually melted, and he has been unable to keep them from doing so, and the result is that there is great discouragement at Menlo Park. There has been another difficulty. Fourteen out of Edison's sixteen applications for a patent at the Washington Patent Office have been rejected. This impulsive man took up the electric light last fall as an entirely new subject of experiment, and allowed himself to believe that he saw a way to make the light useful which others had never thought of; but when he reached the Patent Office he discovered that very nearly every idea which he had embodied in his applications had either been covered by the patents of other inventors or was not patentable at all. This information is obtained from the Patent Office, and is one explanation of the discouragement which reigns at Menlo Park. There is no doubt that the Edison light would be a delightful resource for the illumination of dwellings if it could be depended upon. It floods a room as though with golden sunlight—pure, brilliant, and mellow. But the inventor has never yet been able to regulate his current so as to keep his lamps burning for any length of time, and he has never ventured on a single public exhibition of it. The public have never seen so much as one of his lights yet. A favoured few who have been admitted to his laboratory at Menlo Park have beheld it—a single lamp, enclosed in a glass globe, beautiful as the light of the morning star. But he has refused to let any one inspect it closely, and has never allowed the exhibition of it privately to last long. He has never been able to depend upon its durability. His apparatus is as far from perfection as it ever was, and, in fact, well-informed electricians in New York do not now believe that Mr. Edison is even on the right line of experiment."

Gleanings.

A traveller, lately describing a tropical shower, wrote to a friend in the following words: "The rain-drops were extremely large, varying in size from a shilling to eighteen-pence."

A Frenchman cannot pronounce "ship." The word sounds "sheep" in his mouth. Seeing an ironclad, he said to a boy, "Is dish a war-sheep?" "No," answered the boy. "It's a ram."

The other day the professor of German asked an unregenerate junior what the gender of a certain noun was. The junior quickly replied—"I think it is neuter, sir. At any rate it is neuter me!"

"Were you never in a court of justice before?" asked a magistrate of a witness who was conducting himself in a very unseemly manner. "No, never," replied the man, "but I've often been up before the magistrates."

"No one would take you for what you are," said an old-fashioned gentleman to a dandy, who had more hair than brains. "Why?" was immediately asked. "Because they cannot see your ears."

"Pa," said a little boy, "a horse is worth a great deal more, isn't it, after it's broke?" "Yes, my son. Why do you ask such a question?" "Because I broke the new rocking-horse you gave me this morning."

A Cincinnati liquor dealer applied to a customer for a letter of recommendation of a certain brand of whisky he had recently sold him. The customer wrote, "I have tried all sorts of insect poison, and find none equal to your old cabinet whisky."

"Some things," said an excited American orator recently, "can be foreseen and foretold; and I now foresee, and I will now foretell, that the day will soon come when our liberties will be no more. This is as certain, my fellow-citizens, and it is as sure as that Romeo founded Rome."

Robert M. Martin, formerly a New York millionaire in Wall-street, was sent to the toms the other day for stealing a coat and two shirts. He is penniless. He once gave 10,000dols. to a church, the members of which have since refused to aid him.

A PRIME MINISTER'S BILL OF FARE.—Lord Beaconsfield's diet is described by the *Albany Sunday Press*, which tells us that the Premier's chief sustenance is champagne jelly, which he uses three times a day, and each repast of which costs something like three guineas. The restorative qualities of this nutriment are very great, and to a man of the Premier's sad and meditative temperament and feeble physique must be invaluable. If this is true, and the price of this invaluable jelly is as great as alleged, it costs the Premier 3,449l. 5s. per annum to diet himself, and we should like to see it authentic on this side the Atlantic.

THE ROYAL PLATE AT WINDSOR is reported to be worth 1,800,000l. It includes a gold service ordered by George IV., which will dine 140 persons, and the same monarch added to the collection one of the finest wine-coolers in the world, a shield formed of snuff-boxes, worth 9,000l., and thirty dozen plates worth 10,000l. There are also a variety of pieces brought from abroad and from India; the latter include a peacock of precious stones of every kind, worth 30,000l., and Tippoo's footstool, a tiger's head with crystal teeth, and a solid ingot of gold for his tongue. George IV. was a great benefactor to this collection, as whenever he was angry with the Ministers he ordered some plate, well knowing that they must find the money to pay for it.

TIT FOR TAT.—A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* relates a story of a friend who was travelling accidentally with one of the numerous Lilliputian Serene Highnesses with whom Germany is blessed. It appears that on their arrival at some hotel on the Rhine they had to write their names in the visitors' book; and, to his astonishment, my friend saw his Serene companion put down, not his own, but my friend's name, condescendingly whispering: "I suppose you won't mind—the truth is, I wish to travel incognito." "Not at all," replied my friend; "it is just what I mean doing myself;" and, taking the pen, he wrote in the book, "His Serene Highness the Prince of —," the other's name, observing, with a smile, "Now we are both incog."

"Why does lightning so rarely strike twice in the same place?" asked a Board-school teacher of the new boy in the class of natural philosophy. "Oh," said the boy, "because it never needs to."

THE LATE BAYARD TAYLOR.—The following fine sonnet appears in the *Atlantic Monthly* for March, from the pen of the veteran poet, Whittier:—

For us he wandered through strange lands and old;
We saw the world through him. The Arab's tent
To him its story-telling secret lent,
And, pleased, we listened to the tales he told.
His task, beguiled with songs that shall endure,
In manly, honest thoroughness he wrought;
From humble home-lays to the heights of thought
Slowly he climbed, but every step was sure.
How, with the generous pride that friendship hath,
We, who so loved him, saw at last the crown
Of civic honour on his brows pressed down,
Rejoiced, and knew not that the gift was death.
And now for him, whose praise in deafened ears
Two nations speak, we answer but with tears!

A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING.—A man came into the office of a West-end undertaker with a look of great care on his honest face. His eyes were heavy and slightly bloodshot, telling of nightly vigils and loss of sleep. His hair was unkempt and shaggy. The soft-hearted man of coffins looked upon his visitor with a gaze full of pity and thankfulness—pity for the customer's loss and thankfulness for the patronage. The manufacturer of burial cases nodded a recognition; the young man from the country said, "How d'ye do?" Then ensued a painful silence, broken at length by the man of grave business. "Can I do anything for you, sir?" "Well, I believe you can." Another silence. Once more the undertaker began, suggesting: "Your sister?" The young man stared at him for a moment, then he smiled a smile more suggestive of sorrow than happiness, and replied: "No, my wife." "Sudden?" "No, expected somehow of the kind for several months." "When did it happen?" "Bout four 'clock this morning." "About how much do you want the cost of it to be?" "Don't care for expense; get it up nice. I'll treat her handsome, cause she is the first I ever had." "Very well, you'll have it lined with white satin, I suppose?" "Just as you like; it will be the best, I suppose." "Silver-headed screws too?" "Oh, certainly. Get it up in style, you know." "Just so. Silver handles, of course?" "Eh? Silver handles? No, I ain't quite so stuck up as that—not quite. But I say, make the wheels glisten like anything." "Wh-wh-wh-eels?" "Yes, wheels." "But who ever heard of wheels to a coffin?" "Coffin!" shrieked the young man. "Now, who said anything about coffins?" "Why, don't you want a coffin?" "No! I want a cradle—a trap to rock my new baby in. Don't you make cradles for sale?" "No, my friend, I'm an undertaker." "Oh, laws! let me catch that feller that sent me here!" And the youth crammed his hat over his eyes, ran his hands deep down in his trousers pockets, and bounced out in the streets searching for vengeance.

RUSSIAN PROBITY.—Another correspondent of the same paper relates some anecdotes on this subject:—The Emperor Nicholas went once on a visit for a few days' shooting at the palace of a Silesian graudée, Prince P.; accordingly, he wished to send a souvenir to his host; and he entrusted a member of his suite with a magnificent snuff-box, enriched with his portrait set in brilliants. On repeating his visit the following year His Majesty inquired

how the Prince had liked his portrait, which was the work of some celebrated painter. Prince P., smiling, produced a paltry *abat-jour*, with a wretched likeness of his guest and a few very poor stones—a sort of present one might offer to an attentive dentist. On seeing it the Emperor turned purple; and, seizing the snuff-box, he smashed it on the hearth, exclaiming, "That thief X. has changed it!" I was once at a railway station shortly after the passage of the late Empress of Russia. The place was still adorned with a profusion of red carpets, and host and waiters were full of the grand event. While I was making an excellent repast from the remnants of the Imperial menu, mine host told me that when he handed the bill for the luncheon of the Empress and her suite to the Russian gentleman in attendance, he was required to make it out for double the amount, "et nous partagerons." The innkeeper hesitated—refused; whereupon the Russian shrugged his shoulders, and, paying the account with a contemptuous smile, said, "You can keep your receipt, my good man; but remember as this is the first so it will be the last time that Her Majesty stops here." Another story recurs to my mind. One of the Russian Grand Duchesses passed several months with her relatives in a certain Continental State; and when her visit came to an end, she left a large sum—I forget the amount—to be distributed amongst the servants. Particularly pleased with a coachman who had been driving her about almost every day, she very kindly told the man on the last occasion of his services that he should have a gold watch in remembrance. Some weeks after the departure of the Grand Duchess the coachman received from the Russian Legation a little parcel containing a silver timepiece worth about two guineas. The coachman, suspicious that something was wrong, took the Imperial present to the Master of the Horse and asked for his opinion about it. No end of diplomatic correspondence ensued; and at last a handsome gold watch turned up with a story of "accidental mistake."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

CALLENDER—DELF.—March 19, at Topcroft Chapel, by the Rev. E. H. Delf, assisted by the Revs. G. B. Johnson and F. S. Beaden, Alex. Maxwell Callender, of Woodton Lodge, third son of the late Samuel Pope Callender, of Manchester, to Jane Elisabeth (Bessie), eldest daughter of Samuel Newton Delf, of Longwood House, Topcroft.

STEAD—TOPHAM.—March 19, at Hallfield Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. R. P. Macmaster, Edward, youngest son of Thos. Stead, of Harrogate, to Ada, eldest daughter of R. W. Topham, of Bradford.

STEVENSON—CLAYTON.—March 19, at Grafton-square Congregational Church, Clapham, by the Rev. J. Brierley, B.A., of Leytonstone, Fletcher Wilson, fifth son of G. W. Stevenson, Wood Lea, Balham, to Nancy Louisa, eldest daughter of Henry Clayton, Roylands, Auckland Hill, Lower Norwood.

HAMPSON—GLEDINNING.—March 19, at the Northumberland-street Chapel, Huddersfield, by the Rev. William Bennett, assisted by the Rev. R. Bruce, M.A., John William Hampson, Camwood House, to Elizabeth, third daughter of the late Alexander Gledinning, Ash Villa, Huddersfield.

SMITH—COOKSON.—March 21, at the Broughton Park Congregational Church, Manchester, by the Rev. C. S. Slater, Albert Edward Arthur, second son of Mr. Thomas Smith, of Lowmoor, to Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr. John I. Cookson, of Salford.

DEATHS.

BOOTH.—March 19, at 41, Oakfield-road, Clapton, E., the Rev. William Oliver Booth, Wesleyan Minister, aged 77; and on March 21, Rhoda, wife of the above, aged 74, who survived her husband only twenty-seven hours.

BURTON.—March 19, at Felixstowe, Henry May Burton, of Ipswich, aged 55 years.

CLARKSON.—On Wednesday, March 19, Mr. Richard Clarkson, of Dewsbury Moor. Friends will kindly accept this intimation.

STAR LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The thirty-fifth annual general meeting of the Star Life Assurance Society was held at the Cannon-street Hotel, on Monday, the 3rd. inst., W. Mewburn, Esq., deputy-chairman, presiding. There was a large attendance.

The report submitted by the secretary (Mr. W. W. Baynes) showed that during the year 2,446 proposals for assurance, amounting to 828,210*l.*, were considered by the board. Of these 432 were either declined or not carried out at the close of the year; and 2,014 policies were issued for the assurance of 623,010*l.*, the annual premiums on which amount to 18,758*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* The sum of 8,073*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* had been received for the purchase of 27 immediate annuities, amounting to 381*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* Claims have arisen during the year in respect of 255 policies, amounting to 103,781*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, including bonus additions of 8,497*l.* 9*s.* This sum was 11,393*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* less than the amount reported last year, and considerably within the average expected and provided for in the tables of the society. The total sum paid in claims since the establishment of the society now amounted to 1,595,301*l.* 9*s.* The income of the society during the past year had been 277,114*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, derived from the following sources: Premiums on policies, 281,584*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*; purchase of annuities, 8,073*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*; interest on invested funds, 67,456*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* The sum of 126,422*l.* 12*s.* has been added during the year to the assurance fund of the society, which now amounted to 1,599,212*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* The average rate of interest on the investments of the society during

the year had been 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per cent. The close of the year 1878 (being the thirty-fifth of the society's history) terminated its seventh quinquennial period; and by the provisions of the deed of settlement the directors were required to ascertain the exact position of the society at that date by an actuarial valuation of its assets and liabilities, with a view to the distribution of any surplus amongst the share and policy holders entitled to participate therein. This important duty they entrusted to Mr. A. H. Bailey, the actuary of the London Assurance Corporation, and the president of the Institute of Actuaries. The directors felt that they might congratulate the policy and share holders on the very satisfactory results of the society's operations during the past five years, as shown by the actuary's report, the surplus for distribution as bonus, after setting apart the sum of 25,845*l.* as recommended, being 219,882*l.* as against 150,464*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* on the last occasion. The directors reported with sincere regret the loss by death during the year of their valued colleague, the late Mr. Thomas Ball, of Nottingham. The vacancy thus created had been filled by the election of Mr. Henry Hartley Fowler, of Wolverhampton. A second vacancy was occasioned by the resignation of Mr. G. M. Keill, and this had been filled by the election of the Rev. J. A. Spurgeon. In conformity with the provisions of the deed of settlement, the following directors retire by rotation, viz.: Mr. Alderman McArthur, M.P., the Rev. J. A. Spurgeon, Mr. George Lidgett, and Mr. John Napier, and being eligible, offered themselves, and were accordingly recommended by the board for re-election. In conclusion, the directors felt it was a matter for congratulation that such substantial progress should have been made under conditions so little favourable to the development of life assurance operations as those which had prevailed in the commercial world for some years past; and they were encouraged thereby to appeal with confidence to all who were interested in the Star Office for their hearty co-operation in seeking to maintain and increase its prosperity in the future.

The report was adopted, and, on the motion of Mr. H. J. ATKINSON, seconded by Sir F. LYCETT, the appointment of Mr. H. H. Fowler on the directorate was confirmed.

Mr. FOWLER, in returning thanks, said he felt it to be a high honour to be connected with this institution, of which his father was one of the founders and first shareholders. He was very pleased to be associated with gentlemen of the character of the present directors, and he should certainly do his utmost to co-operate with them for the continued welfare of the society.

Mr. J. NAPIER next proposed, and Mr. J. VANNER seconded, that the appointment of the Rev. J. A. Spurgeon to a seat on the board should be confirmed. The motion was carried, and Mr. SPURGEON responded.

The four directors retiring by rotation having been re-elected,

Mr. W. P. GRIFFITH proposed a vote of thanks to the directors for the ability with which they had conducted the society's affairs, and also that their remuneration should be increased to 3,000*l.*

Mr. W. EDMUNDS (Mayor of Banbury) seconded the motion, which was at once adopted.

The auditors (Mr. F. Parnell, Mr. R. Davis, and T. B. Jones) were afterwards re-appointed, and a vote of thanks was passed to the medical officers.

The CHAIRMAN proposed a vote of thanks to the secretary, officers, and staff for their successful conduct of the business of the society during the year.

Mr. WADDY, in seconding the motion, endorsed all that had been said respecting the secretary and officers of the society. He believed they would do even better in the future than in the past.

The resolution passed unanimously.

The SECRETARY thanked the meeting on behalf of himself and the staff for the vote which had just been passed. The annual meeting was looked forward to as a time when they gathered up the results of the work of the year, and looked at the progress made by the society; but if that was true of the ordinary meetings, it was emphatically true of the quinquennial meetings, when their work was submitted to the severe test that Mr. Bailey had brought to bear upon it, as shown in his valuation. He thought it a matter of congratulation that such a severe and stringent valuation had been applied to the society's affairs, and that, in spite of the large reserve made, there should be such a satisfactory amount for division in the shape of bonus. Not a word too much had been said respecting the staff: they had worked heartily and harmoniously; for many weeks past they had remained late at the office four days a week, and he was glad to testify to the alacrity with which they had discharged their duties. He desired to express his own obligation to the agents for their excellent services during the year; he knew something of the difficulties they had had to encounter, from the state of trade up and down the country, and the results of their labours were very gratifying.

Mr. BAKER (Birmingham) and Mr. CHAMBERS (Dublin) replied on behalf of the agents.

WARNING! RECKITT'S PARIS BLUE.—The marked superiority of this Laundry Blue over all others, and the quick appreciation of its merits by the public have been attended by the usual results—viz., a flood of imitations. The merit of the latter mainly consists in the ingenuity exerted, not simply in imitating the square shape, but making the general appearance of the wrappers resemble that of the genuine article. The manufacturers beg therefore to caution all buyers to see "Reckitt's Paris Blue" on each packet.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast-tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly-nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette*. Sold only in packets labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."

DO YOUR "DYING" AT HOME.—A sixpenny bottle of Judson's Magenta will dye a table cover or a small curtain completely in ten minutes in a pailful of water. Silk scarfs, veils, braid, ribbons, may be dyed crimson, scarlet, violet, &c., in a basin of water. Judson's Dyes. Sold by chemists everywhere.

HEAL ALL!—For Bruises, Chiblains, Rheumatism, Lumbago, &c., no embrocation equals "Dredge's Heal All." Of all chemists, 1*s.* 1*d.* a bottle.

CONVULSIONS IN TEETHING are prevented by the use of Mrs. Johnson's Soothing Syrup. It contains no narcotic, and gives speedy relief. See Barclay and Sons' name on stamp. Of all chemists, 2*s.* 9*d.* per bottle.

"COCA LEAF," WORDSWORTH'S CHEMICAL FOOD OF HEALTH, prepared from "Erythroxylou-Coca," the successful remedy for debility, nervousness, neuralgia, sleeplessness, and rheumatism. 1*s.* 1*d.*, 2*s.* 9*d.*, 5*s.*, and 15*s.*; sent free on receipt of P.O.O.—H. Wordsworth and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, 6, Sloane-street, Knightsbridge, London.

PERFECTION.—MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER is offered to the public with full confidence in its merits. Testimonials of the most flattering character have been received from every part of the world. Over forty years the favourite and never-failing preparation to restore grey hair to its youthful colour and lustrous beauty, requiring only a few applications to secure new and luxuriant growth. The soft and silky texture of healthy hair follows its use. That most objectionable and destructive element to the hair called Dandruff is quickly and permanently removed. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Dismiss your doubts; let no one be longer oppressed with the notion that his malady is incurable till these purifying Pills have had a fair trial. When ordinary preparations have failed, these Pills have been used with the most marked success. A course of this admirable medicine clears the blood from all impurities, and improves its quality. The whole system is thus benefited through the usual channels without reduction of strength, shock to the nerves, or any other inconvenience; in fact, health is renewed by natural means. For curing diseases of the throat, wind-pipe, and chest, these Pills have pre-eminently established a world-wide fame, and in complaints of the stomach, liver, and kidneys they are equally efficacious. They are composed of rare balsams, without a single grain of mercury or any other deleterious substance.

Advertisements.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.

MESSRS. COOKE BAINES & CO., Surveyors and Valuers, No. 28, Finsbury-place, E.C., having had many years' experience in the settlement of Compensation Claims, offer their Services where property is required to be taken compulsorily.

THE HIBBERT LECTURE, 1879.—A Course of Six Lectures on "The RELIGION OF EGYPT" (in continuation of the Course on "The RELIGIONS OF INDIA," delivered last year by Professor MAX MULLER), will be delivered by P. LE PAGE RENOUF, Esq., at the STEINWAY HALL, LOWER SEYMOUR STREET, Portman-square, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the following days, viz.:—Thursday, 24th April; Thursday, 1st May; Thursday, 8th May; Thursday, 15th May; Thursday, 22nd May; Thursday, 29th May.

Admission to the Course of Lectures will be by Ticket, without payment. Persons desirous of attending the Lectures are requested to send their names and addresses to Messrs. WILLIAMS and NORRIS, 14, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, W.C., not later than 5th April, and as soon as possible after that date tickets will be issued to as many persons as the Hall will accommodate.

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

HEALTH, DIET, AND DEAFNESS, NOISES IN THE EARS.

THE Rev. E. J. SILVERTON will send his Health Advocate, giving important advice and particulars on the above subjects, free to any person, showing how Deafness may be at once relieved and ultimately cured. Many most interesting cases are set forth. Thousands of people are hearing Sermons and Lectures to-day who would have remained deaf had they not applied to Mr. Silvertton. When a remedy is so successful, ought not every deaf person in the kingdom to try it, if it be in his or her power?

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THE EGYPTIAN SCARF PIN, set with ALASKA DIAMOND. This Pin is all the rage in fashionable circles, and may, indeed, be worn by the Prince or the Peasant. It is a graceful set-off to any Gentleman. The longer it is worn the better it will be liked. In value it is worth 10*s.* 6*d.*; but if this advertisement be cut out and sent to me, with a P.O.O. for 2*s.* 6*d.*, this wonderful bargain will be sent by return of post. If not approved of, money returned.

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THE AKENHAM BURIAL CASE.

Whatever opinion may be formed of the verdict in the recent case of Drury v. Wilson, it has imposed a very obvious duty on the friends of religious liberty, and especially on those who are anxious to effect a change in the existing Burial Law.

As Mr. Wilson, by the spirited course which he has pursued, in exposing an act of great intolerance, has rendered a public service, it is felt that he ought not to be allowed to bear the burden which this verdict has cast upon him, but that the amount of the costs—which will probably be about 1,000*l.*—should be promptly and cheerfully raised by subscription. Committees have, therefore, been formed for the purpose, both in the Eastern Counties and in London, and either of the members of these committees will be glad to receive subscriptions.

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* Subscriptions may be paid in to the "East Anglian Daily Times Defence Fund," at Messrs. Alexanders and Co.'s Bank, Ipswich, or through any of their country branches; and also to Mr. John Bedwell, 43, Berners-street, Ipswich, or to Mr. Alfred J. Shephard, 32, Finsbury-circus, London.

PROMISED CONTRIBUTIONS

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Mr. O. Morgan, M.P.	5	0	0			

HOME and SCHOOL for the SONS and ORPHANS of MISSIONARIES, BLACKHEATH.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Subscribers and Friends of the above Institution will be HELD at the SCHOOL-HOUSE, Blackheath, on THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 27TH.

The Chair will be taken at Seven o'clock. Several Ministers, Missionaries, and other Gentlemen will address the Meeting.

JOSEPH MULLENS, Hon. Secretary.

MR. GOUGH, at the CITY TEMPLE, Holborn Viaduct, MONDAY, MARCH 31, at 7.30 p.m. Chairman, GEORGE WILLIAMS, Esq. Tickets 1*s.* and 2*s.* each, at the Offices of the National Temperance League, 337, Strand; also of S. W. Partridge & Co., 9, Paternoster Row; S. Harris & Co., 5, Bishopsgate Street Without; Hardwicke & Bogue, 192, Piccadilly; and R. Clarke, City Temple. Tickets for Front Row of Gallery (Specially Reserved), 3*s.*, at 337, Strand.

HIBBERT TRUST.

In compliance with the provision of their Trust Deed, the Trustees being about to revise and thoroughly reconsider the scheme they are now acting on, hereby invite suggestions for their consideration during such revision.

Communications may be addressed to the undersigned before the 1st day of May, 1879.

PERCY LAW FORD, Secretary.

University Hall, Gordon-square, London, W.C.

APPRENTICESHIP SOCIETY.

At the Half-yearly Election, held at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, on Tuesday, March 25, 1879, the following were the SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES:—

W. Daniel Nicholls	1078	John Griffith	887
William Hill	989	John R. Williams	873
Howard G. Laver	940	Arthur Wood	830
Kate A. Davies	919	Thomas H. Clark	571

I. VALE MUMMERY, Chairman.

J. MARCHANT, Hon. Sec.

WILTON HOUSE, EDGBASTON, near BIRMINGHAM.

The SCHOOL for YOUNG LADIES, lately conducted by the Misses PHIPSON and Miss HILL, now Mrs. WALTER LANCE, is carried on by Mrs. LANCE.

The SPRING TERM is from TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST, to WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH.

References kindly permitted to the Rev. R. W. DALE, Birmingham.

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